

"I NEVER STOPPED EATING - YET I LOST 18 POUNDS IN 15 DAYS!"

FAT-BURNING SYSTEM - FOR THE BODY

POSITIVE PROOF THIS SYSTEM REALLY WORKS... AND FAST!!

My name is Brad Mitchell. For many years I have helped thousands of people lose weight. And I believe I can help you!

I realize that today, there are so many weight loss products and programs on the market, that you are probably thoroughly confused as to which one is truly effective.

Everyone, both young and old is striving for that slim, sleek, youthful and energetic figure. The problem is how to achieve such a shape without damage to your health and at the same time keep your energy level high in order to cope with the tensions and rapid pace of today's world.

I have developed such a system!

I firmly believe that this Amazing Fat Burning system is the most effective system ever. I should know, just take a look at my before and after pictures. I lost 18 pounds of ugly fat, in only 15 days.

And, believe it or not, I kept my stomach full of food (no hunger pains).

And, my wife lost 40 pounds in only 30 days!

Since then, I have been continuously researching areas of nutrition, bodybuilding, and diet programs, in order to help thousands achieve that slim attractive shape desired by everyone. In fact everyone I put on this Amazing Fat Burning System, reported that they made fantastic weight loses--fast and easily!



FREE WAIST COURSE!!

Order your Fat-Burning System today and we'll send you FREE our fantastic ABDO-MINAL COURSE. This big book will show you how to have a trim, muscular waist in the fastest time possible! Get rid of that pot-belly and have a sexy, trim waist. You'll look and feel like a new man!

IS IT THE WORLDS FASTEST, MOST EFFECTIVE FAT BURNING SYSTEM EVER?

I sincerely think it is! Why? Because many of the principles and methods used are the same as those used by top physique champions to eliminate all excess fat.

In fact, many physique champions reduce their body fat to the extreme, so that the skin becomes almost paper thin. Certainly you don't want to become extremely thin. But, it's nice to know that the Fat Burning System can accomplish



almost any weight reduction you desire. And isn't that what you want?

This system is so unique and effective (because it really works)--so much so, that we have had the system copyrighted with the US Government, so that the secrets cannot be copied and stolen!

MAN OR WOMAN--YOUNG OR NOT SO YOUNG--THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Everyone can use this system, regardless whether you're young or not so young. It doesn't matter whether you're 10 or 100 pounds overweight, or how many times you have tried to get into shape. With this new system you'll lose weight faster than ever before. In fact you'll have more energy, strength and endurance so that you will feel younger and enjoy a fuller more active life.

I HAVE A SUPER EXERCISE FOR YOU! MORE EFFECTIVE THAN JOGGING!

To help you loose that fat even faster, I've developed a program for a Fun exercise that is more effective than jogging (in the same amount of time), yet it can be done in the privacy of your own bedroom. It takes only several minutes, three times a week to perform this unique exercise! This exercise is done by top athletes and even astronauts. You won't believe how fast your energy level will rise (and how fast you'll get back into shape).

THIS AMAZING SYSTEM REQUIRES ONLY A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF YOUR TIME!

This system requires a small amount of your time (and some effort), but the results will be nothing short of miraculous! Our program offers you plenty of food to eat, plus supplements that will also help burn off the excess fat.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE TRIM AND SLIM...AND WITHIN DAYS BEGIN TO SEE A REAL DIFFERENCE



IN YOUR APPEARANCE--THEN THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Remember, it doesn't matter how many times you have tried to lose weight, your time has finally come, with the Amazing Fat Burning System!

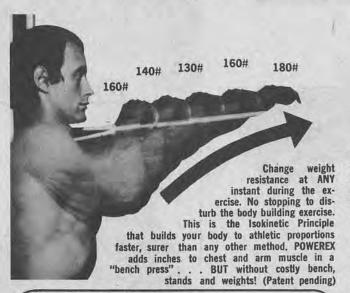
A healthy slim, trim and energetic figure is our goal--make it yours!

SEE DRAMATIC RESULTS IN JUST DAYS...OR RETURN EVERYTHING FOR A FULL REFUND!

You have nothing to loose except fat. Try the Amazing Fat Burning System for a couple of weeks--if you don't feel that the results are fantastic in every way, you can return the system to us, and you'll get a full refund. Just like that! No questions asked. Give it a try today.

dive it a try today	
Okay, Brad, La to feel that the is the greatest a nothing short of send everything	h Rd., Dept VI - 2 an 48239 ccept your offer! But I've got Amazing Fat Burning System and that the results will be if miraculous. Otherwise I'll back for a full refund! (cash, check or money order)
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ISOKINETICS Will Build Your Muscles Faster...or you get your money right back!



HERE'S RESULTS FAST — SURE — PROOF

A group of researchers stated that all published research matching isokinetics with weight lifting and isometrics showed that isokinetics is greatly superior for muscle building.

- "After four weeks of using the exerciser, my strength has doubled thanks to you."—J Castillo, AK.
- "I'm beginning to look like I did when I got out of the Marine Corps." —Don C., PA.
- "In just 6 weeks, I put 2" on my arms, 3" on my chest, 2" on my thighs, and gained 22 lbs."—N.D.
- "In complete honesty, I think it is a great exercise program . . . the best one on the market!!!!"
 —Dave Fuss, IL.

- "You just aren't another rip-off company. You back what you say."
 T Roecklein, WI.
- "I've averaged from 2.3" on my legs, arms, and chest I'm glad that I did invest the money."—
 Richard Oxer, MT.
- "Enclosed is my money order (for a new Powerex). I know how good it is. I had one and I lost it. I am in several sports and cannot win without Powerex. It is the greatest!"
 G Scott, Canada.
- "Arms increased 2½", chest 3", decreased waist 2", and gained 20 lbs. look and feel a lot better!"
 —Joseph Moreno, CA.
- "I used to be a singles man—this season I was a home run hitter, and I credit Powerex with this."
 T J, AL.
- "The results are just FANTASTIC!"
 —Richard Lynn, MN.

ILLUSTRATED WALL CHART COURSES

POWEREX is safe, and light — under two pounds. POWEREX is compact, quick and easy to use, anytime, anywhere. At no extra cost, you also get a big 20 x 28 inch wall chart with illustrations and instructions. Several courses are described . . . for increased strength, bigger

. . . for increased strength, bigger muscles, or turning fat into muscle. One course takes only 15 minutes a week.

THIS IS OUR UNCONDITIONAL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

POWEREX must bring you results. Try it for 14 days. If you are not satisfied with your POWEREX for any reason whatsoever just send it back for an immediate full refund of your money. No questions . . no delays! We want you to be satisfied! AND in addition, we guarantee all parts and workmanship for one full year from date of purchase!

POWEREX: Rm. L-37 11180 Roselle St., San Diego, CA 92121

Scientific Test PROVES Isokinetics

- 166% Better Than Weights
- 390% Better Than Isometrics
 For Putting Muscle on YOU!

Isokinetics is now proved superior to weight training for building your strength, body and explosive power . . . faster, more effectively than any other method.

A leading medical journal published the scientific experiments of recognized researchers. Average peak strength improvement after only 8 weeks for each type of exercise was:

Isokinetics 47.2% Weight Training .. 28.6% Isometrics 12.1%

During each Isokinetic exercise, you continually change the "weight" to the amount that your muscles need for fastest maximum development . . . without stopping. Until recently the only Isokinetic exercisers available were complicated machines costing from \$120 to over \$4000. But NOW, A NEW invention, amazing in its beautiful simplicity, puts Isokinetic muscle building within your reach for only a few dollars.

POWEREX — ISOKINETICS

The invention is POWEREX—an Isokinetic exerciser designed to give you the ultimate benefits of muscle strength, and explosive power faster than ever. And, as you know, with this comes the added benefits of confidence, and the outgoing personality that enables you to get along well with others of both sexes.

POWEREX is going to do all this for you thru the following ISOKINETIC PRINCIPLES:

- (1) POWEREX builds your muscles through their full range of movement. It works every small muscle fiber to its utmost. Not the grunt-and-groan partial static results of an Isometric gadget, but the total dynamic power of Isokinetics.
- (2) POWEREX has the exclusive. CONTROL LEVERS. You instantly and smoothly change the amount of "weight" working for you, to the maximum your muscles can handle... from zero to hundreds of pounds, quickly building your body into a classic, powerful machine!

LOW COST - ORDER NOW

The/ best part is POWEREX costs you only \$ 9.95 For about 1/10th the cost of the next isokinetic exerciser on the market, the benefits of isokinetic muscle building are yours!

So don't wait another moment . . . fill out the coupon, write your check or money order, and get it in the mail now. The sooner you do, the sooner you receive your POWEREX and start the isokinetic way to a muscular body and dynamic power!

ORDER ON 14 DAY TRIAL

POWEREX, RM. L-37 11180 Roselle St., San Diego, CA 92121

Please Rush me my Powerex isokinetic exerciser and wall chart of exercises. I enclose the check or the money order for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling (total \$10.95 No COD's. (California residents please add 84¢ sales tax.) I understand that, for any reason whatsoever, I may return my Powerex and chart within 14 days of receipt for a full refund of my \$10.95 no questions asked.

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zio.

THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

INSIDE CONTENTS/MAY 1977



- 18 THE CONTROVERSIAL END TO A CONTROVERSIAL REIGN
- 38 NOW HARLEY RACE IS WRESTLING'S MOST DANGEROUS MAN
- 45 CAPSULE PROFILE #11—JACK BRISCO
- **46 COLLECTOR'S PINUP**

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

- 8 BEHIND THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR By Randy Gordon
- 28 THE TRAGIC FEUD THAT SPANS TWO GENERATIONS
- 36 THE ONLY MAN WHO COULD FORCE BRUNO TO RETIRE
- 42 LOU ALBANO'S PLOT TO FOOL THE FANS
- 44 ... AND ANDRE WEPT

SPECIAL FEATURES

- 22 THE SHEIK: "THIS IS THE ONLY INTERVIEW I WILL EVER GIVE"
- 26 ARE YOU WRESTLING'S TOP FAN?
- 30 TOP STARS ANSWER YOUR QUESTION OF THE MONTH
- 32 HOW IVAN PUTSKI CAUSED THE DOWNFALL OF TERRY FUNK

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK By Peter King
- 10 ON THE ROAD With Michael B. Kape
- 12 BODYSLAMS AND PINFALLS By Dan Shocket
- 14 NAMES MAKIN' NEWS, Bill Apter Reporting
- 20 NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS
- 34 INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS
- 40 THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF PEN PALS
- **47 SINCERELY YOURS**

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The LaSalle coupon is one of the most often-seen coupons in America. To many of those who have already mailed it, it has proved a first step to opportunity. Isn't it time that you sent it on its way — and learned how one of LaSalle's practical programs could benefit you?

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter King

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Editor-in-Chief

There is this likable, red-headed young man who appears every week on the televised wrestling shows from the WWWF area. His name is Bob Backlund. Bob has won state and regional titles wherever he has wrestled. He came to the WWWF expecting to defeat the best there, too.

But thus far, Bob has yet to receive a match ANYWHERE in WWWF territory. Why? The answer is simple, and the answer is ugly: There is a conspiracy against Bob Backlund.

The plot was hatched in the evil minds of the three managers in the area -- Fred Blassie, Grand Wizard, and Lou Albano. These men ordered the wrestlers in their stables to under no circumstances wrestle Bob Backlund. It was their hope this would drive Bob out of the area.

Why do these "evil geniuses" want Backlund out of the WWWF? Once again the answer is simple: Bob is so good it scares them!

Now I must reveal the saddest part of this story. It appears their plot is succeeding. Bob, unable to find work on any live card in the area, has told me he is seriously considering leaving. I persuaded him to hold on a little longer. Although he agreed, I know, if something is & not done, Bob will soon get disgusted again -- and leave forever.

Wrestling fans, I must make a plea to you. As of now, Bob is so depressed at not getting matches he is blaming himself; he thinks the fans don't want to see him. We all know this is not true. Fans, if you want Bob Backlund to stay in the WWWF, please send a letter, a postcard, or ANYTHING to: Bob Backlund

c/o INSIDE WRESTLING

Box 58

Rockville Centre, New York 11571

Please do it today. A man's career is at stake. Thank you.

FUN, LAZY WAYS TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY

Unless You plan on working the rest of your life -You better get hold of this valuable book!

Want to get out of the rat race? Have some fun and maybe get rich?

It's a fact that there are thousands of 'fat-cats' out there who are raking in the money, while putting in almost no physical

I should know, I'm one of those 'fat-

cats'!

But, I used to work hard, you know, the 12 hour day, 6 and 7 days a week. I was too busy working to make any real money! I never made the Big-Money until I started working less, a lot less!!

Today, I work but a few hours a day (if I want to), yet I take in thousands of dollars a day, every day of the year! I am surrounded by beautiful women, clothed and even totally nude (how's that for a fun, lazy way to make money?).

\$100,000.00 A YEAR!!!



Almost \$2,000 a week! Imagine having girls by the hundreds undressing in front of you — and getting paid big money! Can be started in a one room office, for pennies! It's a legal respectable pennies! It's a legal, respectable money-makingventure. A dream, fun job!

Now, pardon me if I brag, but my words are worthless unless I can prove to you that I know what I am talking about!

I am a Millionaire and I have all the things associated with wealth. I live in a home valued over \$150,000.00 and I have a second vacation home on the lake (with several boats). And I drive the most expensive built car in America!

I own an apartment building, plus two office buildings, real estate, investments and I have a fortune in the bank!

Yet, for many years I was poor -- very poor. I started with less than \$50 -- and working only a few hours a day, I made over a Million dollars!! (and, I was having a 'ball' while making all this money)

Money gives me the freedom and the time to enjoy life! I do exactly what I want to do! I answer to no one. I vacation whenever and wherever I want, whether it be Las Vegas, Hawaii, Acapulco or Florida all First Class!!

Regardless where I am that money keeps rolling in! My glamorous assistants keep taking in the money. Certainly, the people who are making twenty times as much money as you are, aren't putting in twenty times as much work as you are (think about that).

Work doesn't make you Big-Money IT'S WHAT YOU DO THAT MAKES YOU BIG MONEY. That's how you get rich, you find 'EASY MONEY PLANS' that make you money!! Money hand-over-fist, until YOU are wealthy!!

I have opened up my files and put together a BIG BOOK, loaded with ingenious, shrewd, dynamite ways to make a lot of money!!



Why did I put together this book? reasons - vanity, seeing my name on a big book and something to show my children, someday!

My second reason is that so many people have asked me to put a book together, because many have been fascinated, even envious of my life style (and money). Almost everyone I talk to is unhappy with the way they are earning a living! They beg me to give them my secrets on making a lot of money, in a fun, lazy way!

If you really want to be rich...and have that money pouring in (and really enjoy the way you're making the money), knowing that other men envy you, women admire you, and that you've gotten more than your share of life -- this book will show you the way!

\$1,000 A WEEK!! (yet, I do nothing)

The young lady above is showing you the money she makes for me, every week!! She does all the work - all I do is the banking! I profit up to \$1,000 weekly, year after year!

year after year!

It took me several years to perfect this Money-Making-Plan - but, you can have the entire set of plans, including my valuable forms! All you have to do is clip them out of the book and take it to your printer - and you are in business!!

This Money-Plan provides a very necessary service to businesses! You sell nothing!! You use nothing but my special forms, which you are free to duplicate. You don't have to do any work (unless you want to), you can hire a girl to do the typing and stuffing of envelopes!

Your phone book will give you all

do the typing and stuffing of envelopes!
Your phone book will give you all
the names and addresses you need for
this Money-Making-Plan. It can be started in any corner of your home — and
you can start with very little money!!
Why should I give you my valuable
secrets and printed forms? Simply because it is impossible for me to cover the
entire country — millions need this valuable service. I can only tap a small
part of it — you're welcome to the rest!!

Most of these 'Easy Money Plans' require little capital (if any), and many can be done almost anywhere.

In fact, I was making over \$1,000 a week operating out of my basement (for several years), before I moved into an office!

Why not get everything you want out e? You can still do it! If you have a job you hate and you're just getting by in life -- this book can erase your financial burden and put you on easy street for the rest of your life!

Age doesn't matter -- young or not so young, it's still easy to make money in a fun, lazy way! Education means nothing (I had a C average in high school). Background means nothing (believe me, mine was bad). If you're broke, that means nothing (I lived near poverty and started with pocket change).

Try my book out - take a few days or up to 6 months and if you feel, for any reason that this book isn't worth 100 times what you paid for it, return it for a full fast refund! No questions asked. Just like that!

You can use this book without risking a single penny (I'll let you postdate your check thirty days from now, which will eliminate your risk) -- you would be a fool not to try this book! It's the biggest bar-gain ever! Why? Because for the small sum of \$10 you're going to get a Big, Fat Valuable Book (large, over 8 x II), loaded and crammed with photo's, illustrations and Fun,Lazy Ways To Make A Lot Of Money!!

You have nothing to lose and everything to gain! If I am wrong all you have lost is a few minutes, and a postage stamp! But, if I am right -- wow -- your whole life style is going to change!!

Kurt Todd

Kurt Todd Success International Box 40614, Dept VI-2 Detroit, Mich. 48240
Okay, Kurt, I accept your offer! Send me that Big, Fat Book - 'FUN, LAZY WAYS TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY! But, it's got to make me lots of money, or I can return it for a full, fast refund! On that basis, I enclose \$10 (cash, check or money order).
L'm in a big hurry, send it FIRST CLASS (Air Mail)enclosed find an extra \$2 for postage/handling!
Please charge Bank Americard Master Charge Credit Card No.
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© 1977 Kurt Todd ZIP



Behind the Dressing Room Door by Randy Gordon

WHY IS IT that most of wrestlings's strongest men are vicious rulebreakers? It just doesn't make sense, not in my way of thinking.

Ken Patera, Ernie Ladd, Steve Strong, Ivan Koloff, and Superstar Billy Graham are just a few of the exceptionally strong men who make their living by breaking the rules of wrestling. Some of them, such as Patera and Ladd, once were beloved athletes in another sport. Ladd was a great football player. Patera was an Olympic weightlifter. Why then did they go bad?

Recently, without donning any of my disguises, I talked to both Ladd and Patera, to try to give you more of an insight on what inspired these two talented athletes to take the road of rulebreakers.

"It's good to see you had the guts to walk in here without a disguise," said Patera. "It's been a long time, hasn't it. Do you have any idea how many wrestlers would love to break you into a hundred pieces?" He placed both hands on top of my head and lightly began to squeeze.

an egg," laughed Patera. Thankfully, Kenn released his grip and then said, "Okay, Gordon. Let's get this thing over with. You make me sick. The only reason I'm talking find out just how great I am. Now let me tell you this: I am the strongest strength, coupled with my wrestling rulebreaker. Well, I break the rules sometimes, but everybody breaks they're for; to be broken. But I've got news for you, turkey-facethan I do. It's just that I'm so great, and it's just that I'm so powerful that it looks like I'm always breaking the rules. If you were any kind of reporter, you'd realize this. That's (Continued on page 52)

There's a world of music between having a guitar. and knowing how to play it!

Discover the secret of teaching yourself to play the guitar, piano, or spinet organ -the "right" way. Send for free booklet.

Any one can own a guitar. Playing it well, however, is a different tune.

Why not give yourself a chance to play as well as you really could? You could be playing all your favorite songs. Folk or rock. Classical or pop. Hymns or spirituals. Jazz or ballads.

You can teach yourself to play the "right" way - at home - in much less time than you might

PLAY "RIGHT" FROM THE START

Thousands of people just like you have gained new pleasures by learning to play with the enjoyable self-teaching lessons we give by mail. You can too.

The secret lies in our clear, stepby-step, word-and-picture instruction method. It teaches you to play the right way. Without gimmicks. You learn to read and play notes . . . so you'll be able to play practically any song, merely by looking at its sheet

YOU SET YOUR OWN PACE

You learn in spare time, in the privacy and comfort of your own home. There's no one standing over you to make you nervous. There's no clock-watching private teacher at \$4 to \$10 per hour to worry about. You take as much time mastering any lesson as you wish.

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If you've ever dreamed of being able to play the piano, guitar or spinet organ, why not learn more about our convenient, low-cost method? Mail coupon for free booklet today. There's no obligation. U.S. School of Music, A Home Study School Since 1898.





If you prefer, learn the piano or spinet organ -

all for far less than you'd pay a private teacher. Our courses teach you to play the right way, not just chords and bass notes in combination.

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Studio 16-610

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I'm interested in learning the secret of teaching myself to play the instrument checked below. Please send me, FREE, illustrated booklet. (Free "Note-Finder included with Piano or Guitar booklet.) I am under no obligation.

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☐ Guitar (pick style)	☐ Piano	☐ Spinet Organ (2 keyboard

Mr. Mrs Miss	
Address	

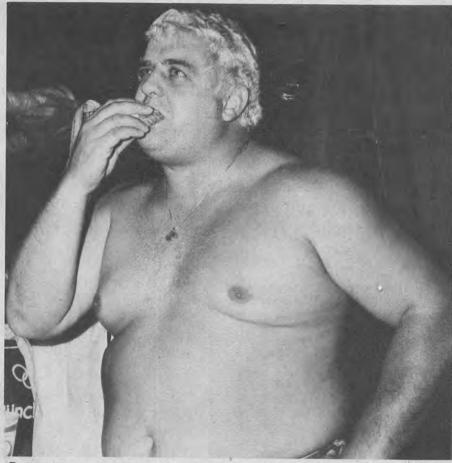
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PORTATO



NTERSTATE 95, FLORIDA—After Dusty Rhodes professes he is better than picking up my new car in Denver last month, I decided to head down South to see Dusty Rhodes. I have never met the man who bills himself as "The American Dream," but I had been fascinated by the vast amounts of publicity he generated for himself. I had to find this gentleman and see if he was worth all this hype.

I caught up with him in Atlanta after a wrestling show. We talked of trivialities for a while. He mentioned to take him to his destination.

To say the least, Dusty Rhodes is offer of a ride down to Miami, he a.m.: insisted upon driving-in my new weeks before.

being chauffeured around town. of little importance here. But Dusty was insisting, and there was no way I could resist.

out on our journey to Miami. I do not the championship. But things didn't think I can explain exactly when I

he used to be. The "American Dream" hopes to prove this by winning the NWA title.

knew I was in for a rough ride, but by the time we arrived at the Georgia-Florida border, I was shaking.

Barreling down the interstate at speeds far exceeding the legal limits was not my idea of fun. Especially when it was my car! But Dusty seemed to be enjoying himself, weaving in and out of lanes, he had to be in Miami the next day. I tailgating the few cars on the road, offered the services of my new car forcing the engine beyond its limits. I had my seatbelt on the entire trip.

Fortunately, I had my tape one of the most forceful recorder with me. Somewhere personalities I have ever outside of Orlando I turned it on and encountered. One cannot help but let it do its work. What follows is be drawn to his dynamics. In very a transcript of a rather long little time, he not only accepted my monologue delivered by Rhodes at 3

"I am not the man I used to be. I car which I had only bought three am better than that. I am now the greatest wrestler who ever lived. Now I usually don't let anyone And no one will ever surpass me drive me anywhere. I do not like and my greatness. However, that is

"I am no longer 'The American Dream.' That plan fizzled like a At 11 p.m that evening, we set soggy firecracker. I wanted to win

(Continued on page 56)

THE MACHINE THAT PRINTS MONEY.

One of the first things I learned as a boy was, "You don't get something for nothing."

Today I know that is simply not true! I make that statement because I have in my

hand the system of the century — a device that

virtually prints money!

Now I'm not talking about a party gag, magic show or variety-store item. This method is not a gimmick that will "amaze your friends" until the trick is discovered. What I'm talking about is a fantastic new technique to invest—and re-invest—your money until the small sum you started with is multiplied into many thousands of dollars.

Do I have your attention so far?

Good. Because my method has to do with something that many people find distasteful . . . yes, even laugh at! The subject brings out strong opinions in almost everyone — pro or con — and may get a pretty strong reaction from you, too.

The subject is horse racing.

Whoa. Stop right there. I know . . . I've heard everything there is to say about the ponies. "You can't beat the horses." "A fool and his money are soon parted." "Gamble with fate, and you pay the price." "I had an uncle who lost everything . . ."

I don't argue with anybody. If a person is bent on self-destruction, he's simply going to find a way. Booze, Women. Debts, Gambling. Maybe even drugs. Nothing you can do or say is going to change the outcome, and the method that the troubled person takes to beat

himself is not the issue.

Over the years horse racing has come in for a big share of the knocks. Everybody knows somebody who has gambled away a living, maybe a fortune, on the sport of kings. Recently I talked to a very solid citizen who told me, "If racing's the sport of kings, I never saw any kings out there!"

Again, I don't argue the point. Because I know what I know. I know that a prudent person who has a few dollars to spend can make a very handsome living at the track—with my secret, strictly—and I'll argue that

point with anybody!

My secret is simple. So simple, in fact, that I am sure some of the so-called racing "experts" will sneer at my method without even investigating it. After all, that's human nature. But really, I don't feel bad . . . why should I? I have what they don't have . . . what no one has. The secret to a machine that virtually prints money!

I call my secret "The System of the Century." If you've never played the horses before (in fact, if you've never even been to a race track!), you'll be astounded at the simplicity of this logical, common-sense way to pick winners that return \$10, \$20, and even \$50 bills for a mere \$2 wager.

The system consists of four simple rules... four rules you can read and memorize in just one hour at home. One of these rules — Rule No. 4 — is so elementary that you can go to any race track with an infield turf (grass) course and start writing your own checks tomorrow as though you'd been a track pro for twenty years!

Of course, if you're a regular horseplayer, "The System of the Century" will have even greater appeal. How many times have you spent hours pouring over a single race, doping out every detail, figuring every angle... only to find that the horse you picked to begin with — and decided against for some reason even you can't remember — romped home an easy winner? (And paid a whopping \$60!) Or how about the time your brother-in-law talked you off that horse you knew would win — and did!

But I'm not here to change anybody's mind or re-open old wounds. What I'm here to do is to tell you about a method, a technique that is so ridiculously easy to understand... a system that will put so much money in your pocket... you'll wonder where it's been all these years.

Where has "The System of the Century" been all this time? The answer: In my head. I've been in racing all my life, and in that time I've had good years and lean years. Over the years I have become progressively better at what I do: win money at the races. (Last year it made over \$500,000 for me — yes, over a half-a-million bucks — and I'm only 33 years old!)

One night, when I was bored watching TV, I sat and wrote down on a piece of paper the things that I consider to be critically important during the running of a horse race. Would you believe it? I came up with only four things—and all so simple a twelve-year-old can master them in under sixty minutes!

That's how "The System of the Century" was born. And I decided right then and there to make the system available to anyone with a "will to win" — with an honest interest in getting ahead.

All you need is a grubstake — as little as \$20 — and a little patience. "The System of the Century" does the rest, Just follow these four little rules (strictly!) and start cashing those big parimutuel tickets most folks just dream about.

WHO IS MIKE WARREN?

America's premier handicapper. Mike Warren is well on his way to becoming a self-made millionaire at 33 . . . because he picks 'em with *uncanny* consistency. Read what his fans have to say . . .

"You are FANTASTIC!!! Absolutely THE GREATEST!!! All four of the horses you gave me at Aqueduct Saturday won and paid real good. Thank you very much..."

N.P., Los Angeles, Calif.



"I must tell you
... it's just fantastic. Both horses
(clicked). The first
paid \$35.40 . . . the
second \$10.20
made a nice bundle."

E.A.S., Chicago, Illinois

Why, just the other day a fellow approached me at Belmont and asked me what I liked. I normally don't hand out advice at the track, but this player looked as though he needed a break

So I told him I like a horse named Black Springs, an eleven-to-one shot. The guy pondered that for a moment, then said, "No way. I give the favorite, Counter Gambit, a big edge . . . 1 guess I'll go bet it. Thanks anyway."

To make a long story short, Black Springs is six lengths in front at the head of the stretch and wins easily, with Counter Gambit running second at less-than-even money. Black Springs pays \$24.40 straight, and my player friend comes running up to tell me he'll never doubt me again. He hasn't, either. Armed with "The System of the Century," he'll never need advice or money again.

I recognize that the world is full of skeptics, so I make this proposition to you. Send me \$9.95 as payment in full for the "System of the Century." Use this method at your local race track for fifteen days, making sure to follow my rules as outlined therein. Bet all you want — and keep what you take in with my blessings!

And here's the best part. If my method fails to work for you in exactly the manner I've described, you have risked nothing because I'll send your original check back to you — uncashed! (Just date your check one month ahead. That way nobody can touch your ten bucks while you prove to yourself that "The System of the Century" is everything I say it is.)

Could anything be fairer?

You owe it to yourself to find out about "the machine that prints money." I'm Mike Warren . . I'm well-known in racing circles . . . and I say it's so.

Act now. Today. Can you afford to guess that I'm wrong?

Sworn statement...

This is to certify that all statements made in this ad are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. MIKE WARREN is a professional handicapper of Thoroughbred horses, and his gross income for the last twelve months was in excess of \$500,000.00.

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Mike Warren The Baltimore Bulletin, Inc. 380 Madison Avenue

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Dear Mike

State

O.K., I'll try anything once. Please send me "The System of the Century" by return mail. I understand that if your method doesn't make big money for me as you have outlined, all I have to do is return it within a month and my uncashed check will be returned to me.

On that basis, here is my check for \$9.95 dated one month from now. (If you're enclosing a money order that can't be dated ahead, you have the same money-

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By Dan Shocket

HERE'S A BLIGHT on wrestling and it threatens to kill the sport. That blight is the sport's referees. The only cure is mass firing of these corrupt, ridiculous officials.

I could list hundreds of matches where these fools betray their evil. Of course, they always seems to err on the side of "scientific" wrestlers, the clowns who pretend to wrestle within the rules. How many of the popular wrestlers, after being beaten soundly, are given the match on a disqualification? The list would fill a library, a library of shame. And it's all done with the ignorant fans' approval.



Stan Stasiak claims he would be WWWF champion today if referees were not biased toward Bruno Sammartino.

Referees can get away with this nonsense because the fan, the promoters, and the commissioners are stupid. Due to some malfunction of the brain, these groups consider the popular wrestler good for the sport. Therefore, the referees do what they can to steal success from the grapplers



Bruno prepares to smash his knee into Stan's head. "That's illegal!" exclaims Stasiak. "Why wasn't the bum disqualified?"

known as "rulebreakers," the men whose greatness exceeds the fans' understanding.

Why is it that so-called rulebreakers are continually being warned, impeded, and disqualified? Why are their pet maneuvers, developed after years of painstaking work, banned for no visible reason? Is dirty money changing hands? Is the sky blue?

The best example of referees protecting the popular plodders is the WWWF championship reign of Bruno Sammartino, too tragic to be funny and too funny to be tragic. Again and again, Sammartino has fallen to his superior opponents. Yet, he's been saved by more technicalities than exist in U.S. law. The men who should rightfully be champion today include Stan Stasiak, Nikolai Volkoff, Spiros Arion, Stan Hansen, Bugsy McGraw, and many other top athletes. Instead. Sammartino remains champion and "living legend." Running joke is more like it.

Of course, Bruno is only one of many oafs under the protective wing of corrupt referees. Verne Gagne, when he was disgracing the AWA title, often enjoyed the benevolent aid of officials. They interfered so blatantly in Jack Brisco's matches when he was NWA king, one could almost call the bouts handicap matches, two against one. There are many more like these and the sport suffers because of them.



Bobby Heenan is criticized for helping Nick Bockwinkle win title matches. Bobby just advises Nick—he does not wrestle for him!

The only champion who somehow manages to retain his title without official interference is Nick Bockwinkle, the real hero of wrestling. Without the aid of instantly devised rules, Bockwinkle keeps wrestling and winning, turning back all types of challengers. They try to take the title from him, but Nick is too cunning. One should not ignore the remarkable contribution Nick's manager, Bobby Heenan, makes to Bockwinkle's success. In fact, I believe it's Heenan's genius which is responsible for Nick's success in turning back official attempts to steal the title.

(Continued on page 62)

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make contact heavy LEATHER clothing! A blow directed at the head or jaw of your assailant can actually KNOCK HIM OUT! Best of all, KIYOGA is so easy to handle, it can be used SAFELY by MEN or WOMEN!

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Send only \$19.95 for each "KIYOGA" ordered (we'll pay the postage.) When you receive it, try it out on the trunk of a tree (the bark will splinter and fly with such FORCE it can be dangerous, so wear goggles to protect your eyes). If you live in the city, test it on a one book and count the number of pages DENTED right THROUGH the cover (you will penentrate 60 pages)! And don't worry about damaging it! "KIYOGA—The Steel Gobra" is precision-machined like a fine gun, and so WELL MADE it will last a LIFETIME! Best of all, it is entirely self-contained and uses NO

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NAMES MAKI

HARLEY RACE is the new National Wrestling Alliance Heavyweight Champion. Before a stunned crowd at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens, Race made champion Terry Funk quit after an extensive leg attack, topped off by a crippling Indian Death Lock. For full details and exclusive photos of the classic title match, page 18! . . . GREG GAGNE clearly defeated AWA champion NICK BOCKWINKLE, but Bockwinkle's manager, BOBBY HEENAN, refuses to turn the belt



HARLEY RACE

over to young Greg. Greg substituted for CRUSHER, who was unable to appear for this scheduled title match. Heenan claims the match automatically becomes a non-title match when a substitute steps in . . . Former wrestling star ANTONINO ROCCA, now a commentator on east coast TV wrestling, rates BOB BACKLUND as "the fifth greatest wrestler in the world at the present time."

Fans in the east were delighted to see MIL MASCARAS wrestle at Madison Square Garden. Mil stopped top-notch opponent GASHOUSE GILBERT with his famous Mexican flying bodypress . . . VICTOR RIVERA and the mysterious CIEN CARAS have captured the Americas tag team



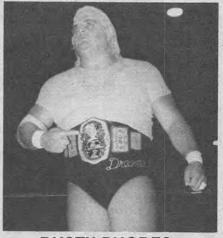
VICTOR RIVERA



BOB BACKLUND

title . . . IVAN PUTSKI is a "plant freak." The popular Polish star has a large greenhouse near his home containing some of the world's most exotic trees and plants . . PAUL JONES is headed to Georgia. He hopes to win the state title from DICK SLATER . . . NIKOLAI VOLKOFF and TOR KAMATA recently had heated words—and flying fists—with each other. They are now bitter enemies!

STEVE STRONG, now managed



DUSTY RHODES

by SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK, has improved immensely since the pudgy manager put him on a new and vigorous training schedule. Humperdink hopes Strong will go all the way and win the NWA world title for him ... BUDDY WOLFF is vet another vastly improved wrestler also grappling in the Sunshine State . . . THE ASSASSIN teamed with DUSTY RHODES in order to get at SUPERSTAR GRAHAM and OX BAKER, the duo who broke the masked man's nose . . . THE ANDERSON BROTHERS are trying to win their tag team title back from GREG VALENTINE AND RIC FLAIR



PAUL JONES

N' NEWS

Bill Apter reporting...



MR. WRESTLING II



ERNIE LADD

... LARRY ZBYSZKO, trying to live up to the expectations of his teacher, BRUNO SAMMARTINO, is wrestling only the best talent the WWWF has to offer. Larry should grow to superstar status within the next year if he keeps improving the way he has been.

JERRY LAWLER wants to be known as "General" Lawler from this day on. "The General Patton of wrestling," Lawler adds. "I am a great man just like the good General was," . . . MR. WRESTLING II says he will introduce a protege during 1977. "I have been training a youngster for quite sometime now. If all goes well, I hope to use him as a tag team partner during the latter part of the year" . . . DEAN HO is planning to reunite with former partner TONY GAREA as soon as his commitments in the Seattle area are completed . . . DON KENT has been unsuccessful in his attempts to win the U.S. title back from rookie GINO HERNANDEZ. Gino, if you don't know by now, is a protege of JOSE LOTHARIO.



JERRY LAWLER

KEN PATERA has been warned by the Pennsylvania wrestling commission to cease putting full pressure into his swinging neckbreaker. Patera has injured many wrestlers with that hold, and the commission is ready to ban it if Patera does not adhere to its wishes. LOU ALBANO, Patera's manager, says he will take the



KEN PATERA



GINO HERNANDEZ

commission to court if they stop his man from using his favorite hold . . . Detroit officials found a piece of metal in the tape wrapped around the "sore thumb" of ERNIE LADD ... CARLOS ROCHA has yet to be tested in the WWWF. It is time the Portugese champion faced some of the association's best!

BARON VON RASCHKE crushed a football to shreds with his brain claw. "It is only a small example of what I will do to Sammartino!" vows the Baron . . . Mexican star ALPHONSO DANTES made a rare appearance in California. He hopes to get an opportunity to wrestle there on a regular basis during the year . . . STAN STASIAK ended the career of 18-year-old rookie FRED LUDLOW. Stan delivered his "heart punch" and knocked young Ludlow unconscious.Ludlow's doctor says Mike will never fully recover from the blow. His wrestling career is over.







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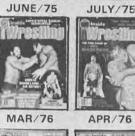
































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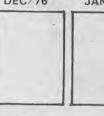












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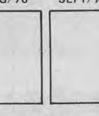
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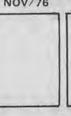
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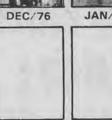












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THERE WAS AN instant of paralyzed shock. No one reacted, not even Harley Race. Then excitement exploded as everyone realized Terry Funk had just lost the NWA title to Harley Race!

"He submitted," people said in astonishment. "He gave up his title. No one can prevent being pinned and losing a title. That's understandable. But he surrendered! He quit! He gave up his title!"

The end came at 14:10 into the one-fall match. Funk had dominated most of the battle up to this point. Then, Race escaped a headlock and forced Funk to the canvas. Instantly, Funk found himself trapped in an Indian Deathlock, a hold that tortures the leg. Terry writhed in agony, grunting and groaning piteously all the while. Race could hardly believe it when the referee told him to release the hold—Funk had surrendered.

Terry was in too much pain to argue with the referee. He said only a few



Terry Funk has a sleeper hold on Harley Race but Harley just tosses him off (above). Terry strains to escape from a hammerlock just three minutes before he surrendered his title.



sorrow. The grappler had to be helped back to the dressing room. Terry couldn't put any weight on his left leg. Less than an hour later, the exchampion was being taken by ambulance to the nearest hospital. The first diagnosis: an operation would be necessary.

Hours later, Terry invited reporters

words until silenced by pain and

Hours later, Terry invited reporters into his hospital room. Although it was four o'clock in the morning, he was allowed the privilege because of his highly emotional state.

"I never quit," Terry claimed, his teeth clenched from pain, "I never surrendered. All I did was grunt. I never said a word. I just made sounds. The referee never heard me quit. He either made a mistake, or he is a lot richer tonight than he was this afternoon. But I didn't quit. I'd never give up my title. I'd die first."

Could the referee have misunderstood Funk? Stranger things have happened in sports. A replay of the match shows Funk seemingly saying something, although his voice is inaudible. It could be grunts, it could be surrender. No one will ever be able to tell for sure.

However, Terry had best thank the referee rather than insult him. Doctors say if the pressure had kept up much longer, Funk would have been facing permanent disability. The muscles and tendons would have been ripped beyond repair. As it stands now, Terry should be able to try to regain his title in a couple of months.

The fact remains: Harley Race is NWA champion. He now owns the belt for a second time. The first time Harley was champion, he took the belt from Dory Funk Jr., Terry's brother.

Funk Loses NWA Title To Harley Race:

THE CONTROVERSIAL END TO A CONTROVERSIAL REIGN

The new champion of the NWA is Harley Race. Terry Funk fell to this great grappler in one of the most brutal matches ever. Read how it happened and what it means for every wrestler, commission, and fan in the world!

EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS BY JOHN MAIOLA

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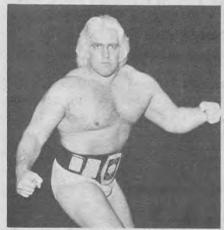
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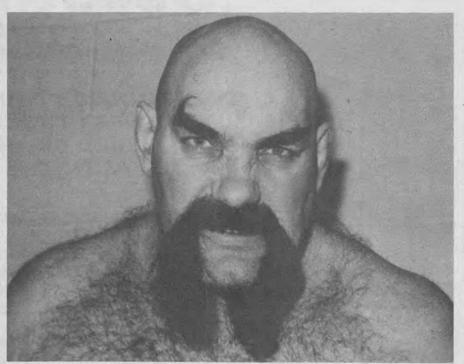
If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.



Ric Flair—one half of the NWA tag team champions. Along with his parter Greg Valentine, they destroyed Rufus R. Jones and Wahoo McDaniel

GREENSBORO, SOUTH CAR-OLINA—Correspondent: Randy Webb—It has been a reign of terror since Ric Flair and Greg Valentine won the NWA tag team title. The most recent team to feel their wrath was Wahoo McDaniel and Rufus R. Jones. From the onset, it became obvious the doubleteaming methods of Flair and Valentine would quickly take their toll on the Indian and his partner. Valentine roughed up Rufus with a series of elbow smashes, then tagged Flair. Ric continued the



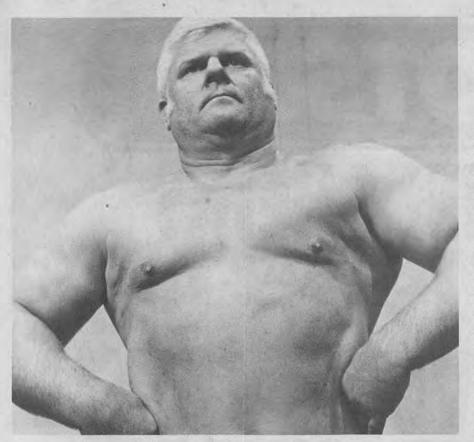
Ox Baker heads for his dressing room after a controversial loss to former NWA champion Jack Brisco. Baker vows to get even with Jack.

assault, kicking and punching at will. Finally, Jones was able to get to his corner and tag Wahoo. McDaniel went into his war dance, but even that didn't help. Flair caught Wahoo in a full nelson. Valentine then came off the ropes with a flying elbow smash and ended the cruel battle.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA—
Correspondent: Tim Monsees—The red hot feud between Jack Brisco and Ox Baker came to a head-on collision at the Coliseum. Early in the battle, it appeared Jack would be defeated as Baker had the advantage throughout the first five minutes. Brisco finally turned things around by smashing Baker with a series of powerful forearm smashes. Ox recovered quickly, though, and kicked Jack in

the midsection. Brisco doubled over. Baker went in for the kill. Ox slammed Jack and bodypressed him. At the count of "two," Brisco draped his foot on the bottom rope, forcing a break. Jack soon turned the tables with a spectacular dropkick attack that finally finished Baker.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA—Correspondent: BILL MATTHES—The cleverness of Bobby Heenan and his "family" cost Crusher the AWA title victory seemingly his. Nick Bockwinkle did all he could to outwrestle Crusher, but everything failed. Crusher made Nick look like an amateur as he brilliantly executed holds specifically geared for this match. The heartbreaking windup for Crusher came when he had Nick



Crusher (above) almost won the AWA title from Nick Bockwinkle, until Bobby Heenan and "The Family" interfered. Bruno Sammartino whips Bruiser Brodie across the ring (below).



pinioned in the middle of the ring. "One, two," counted the referee as Nick's shoulders stayed on the mat. Just before he could count "three," Heenan dispatched Bobby Duncum to run in and interfere. Bockwinkle lost the match by disqualification. As everyone knows, a title cannot change hands on a disqualification.

James C. Bishop—The main event was a 20-man, over-the-top-rope-battle royal. After Chief Strongbow, Gorilla Monsoon, and other great stars were eliminated, only three remained—Ken Patera, S.D. Jones and Stan Stasiak. Stan and Ken immediately went after Jones. Stasiak cornered S.D. and

lifted him high, attempting to toss him over the top rope. To everyone's surprise, Patera smashed Stasiak from behind. Stan went flying over the ropes with Jones! Patera was declared the winner and went home with \$10,000!

Billy White Wolf stopped Executioner #2 in a wild brawl...Pete Sanchez dropped a match to Stan Stasiak...Jose Gonzales fell to Ken Patera... Chief Strongbow upset Gashouse Gilbert... Tor Kamata brawled his way to victory over young Pete Austin.

Feb 1, 1977

OMAHA, NEBRASKA-Correspondent: Allen L. Miner-An historic match occurred when Ray Stevens paired with former enemy Greg Gagne to take on Bobby Heenan and Bobby Duncum. Ray and Greg joined forces for this match because they both hate Heenan and every member of his "family." Heenan and Duncum sneak-attacked their opponents before the bell rang. But as soon as order was restored, Ray threw Heenan out of the ring and smashed his head into a press table. The impact broke the table in two! Heenan returned into the ring a bloody messwith Stevens right behind him! Gagne then joined the brawl, followed by Duncum. Soon, both Heenan and his partner were bloody. To aid them, Nick Bockwinkle came charging out of the dressing room to join the melee. All hell broke loose as Gagne and Stevens wiped the mat with Bockwinkle, Heenan and Duncum. The end came when Greg pressed Duncum for the three-count. Greg and Ray received an ovation from the crowd. Bockwinkle and Duncum carried the bloody and unconscious Heenan back to the dressing room.

PHILADELPIA, PENNSYL-VANIA—Correspondent: Don Diagnauet—Bruiser Brodie attempted to take Bruno Sammartino's title at The Spectrum. Brodie brutally attacked Bruno with illegal kicks and punches, Bruno retaliated with illegal tactics of his own. Brodie found Bruno's viciousness too much to take as he fell under the pressure of the champion in 12 minutes. Brodie learned, like so many others, you can't beat Bruno by using roughhouse tactics. Sammartino can give it back in triplicate!

HOTSEAT

THE SHEIK: "THIS IS THE ONLY INTERVIEW I WILL EVER GIVE"

e is known as the cruelest wrestler in the world. Many top athletes are now crippled and blinded because of his savage tactics. There is no maneuver too illegal, too ugly for him to do. Knowing him is fearing him. The best have fallen before him. He is Sheik!

Q: Welcome to the "Hotseat."
We're honored to be the first
people to interview you. To our
knowledge, no one else has been
granted this privilege.

A: Your knowledge is correct.

Although I speak 12 languages fluently, I converse with only those whom I respect. Naturally, no member of the wrestling profession deserves my respect. However, after carefully studying your excellent column, "Bodyslams and Pinfalls," I realized you would be the perfect person to interview me. I trust you. There is no other journalist fit to talk to me.

Q: We're very flattered, and we hope to live up to your confidence. Still, that doesn't INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY DAN SHOCKET

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"I want the civilized world to know and fear me. The only way to do that is by winning. There is no greater thrill than entering an arena and knowing every single person there fears your might."

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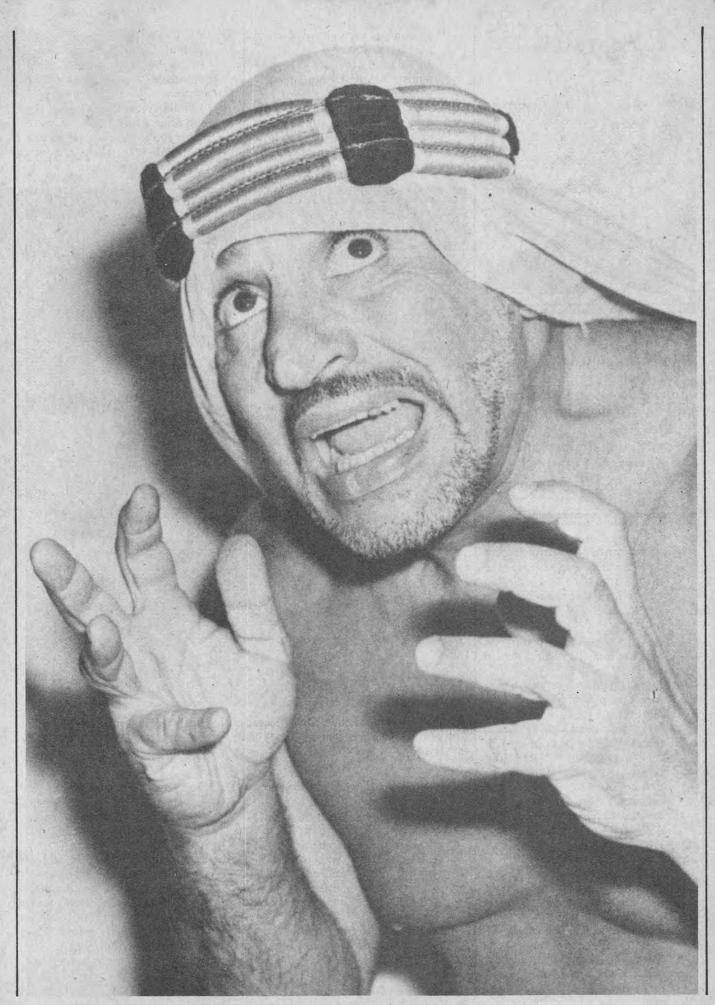
fully explain why you chose to break your silence of many years.

A: I have remained silent because I didn't want my views to be given a forum. Before this, I trusted no magazine to print my views without changing them to suit their own purposes. There is much I have to tell. Now I know it will be printed with my

genius intact.

Q: Then why don't you begin by saying all the thoughts you've kept to yourself over the years.

- A: I would be delighted to do so. First, I want the world to know I'm not the crazy person everyone says I am. Sheik is a professional athlete who must win to survive. I am not in this sport to win friends or impress fools.
- Q: Why are you in the sport?
- A: Personal glory. I want the civilized world to know and fear me. The only way to do that is by winning. There is no greater thrill than entering an arena and knowing every single person there fears your might. For the times I'm in the arena, I rule the world. I am no longer the second son.
- Q: Could you explain what it means to be the second son?
- A: It means you are nothing in the eyes of your people. The first son is the future ruler of the tribe, the prince over all he surveys. All the tribesmen seek his favor, offer their daughters in marriage. For the second son,





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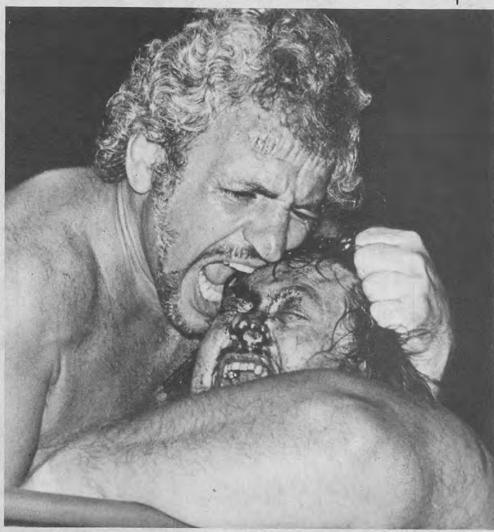
"Men are at my mercy, as if I was their king. It is in my power to let them remain healthy or cripple them for life. Power of life and death—that's the only power that counts."

99

there is no power. His descendants will grow further and further away from the throne until his blood is diluted into peasant stock. The first son is immortal. The second son is nothing.

- Q: So you went into wrestling to gain the fame your birth denied you?
- A: Don't forget the power. Never forget the power. Men are at my mercy, as if I was their king. It is in my power to let them remain healthy or cripple them for life. Power of life and death—that's the only power that counts. Do you know how many men have wrestled against me and never wrestled again? I do, every single one of them.
- Q: How do you feel about that?
- A: They were trying to do the same to me, so I feel nothing. No, I feel proud I did it to them instead of the other way around.
- Q: Could you tell us why you appear to behave strangely, as if you entered another world before the match.
- A: What I'm doing is going deep into my soul for spirtual

- guidance. I beseech Allah to aid me in my task. Now, if you would say I also do it because it tends to scare my opponents, I wouldn't deny it.
- Q: Now that you brought up the mystical side of your career, perhaps we could discuss how you throw fire. Flames seem to come from your fingertips.
- Q: As you're well aware, many people consider your flame-throwing the single most reprehensible action in wrestling history.
- A: I couldn't care less. It gets the job done. Only a fool listens to other fools. They wrestle against me and take their chances. That's all I care about.



The Sheik sinks his teeth into the forehead of The Mighty Igor (above). Every battle The Sheik participates in becomes a bloody brawl. The crazed Arab gets pleasure in brutally thrashing his opponents.

- A: Things are often what they seem. People don't believe I can generate flames from my body because they think it is impossible for human beings to do this. So, they will take this learned notion and deny what their eyes tell them. Flames spring from my fingertips. It is a fact
- Q: Did you learn how to do this or were you born with this unique gift?
- A: It happens. That's all anyone needs to know.

- Q: Do you care about people accusing you of using foreign objects against an opponent, most frequently a pencil or plastic knife?
- A: Let them say what they will. I will emerge victorious and earn a fabulous fortune. Besides, it just makes people that much more frightened of me. So let them talk. Their stupid jabbering is music to my ears.
- Q: Is there anyone you respect in wrestling?
- A: No.



The use of foreign objects plays a large part in The Sheik's career as Igor finds out (above). Sheik tore a shirt off a spectator who tried to attack him (below left). He eats the pieces of the shirt as an announcer attempts to interview him. Johnny Powers is about to become a bloody victim of The Sheik's famous pencil (below right).





Q: Not even your managers?

A: I have found it necessary to use managers. Still, they're like a visit to the dentist, necessary but for the most part unpleasant. I know that the men who have managed me or still manage consider me their friend. That's a conceit on their parts. I tolerate them. I don't especially like them.



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"There are still some people I haven't crippled for life. As long as they wrestle, I can't feel total control over the sport. I intend to be the absolute ruler of wrestling."

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Q: Are there any goals you haven't accomplished?

A: There are still some people I haven't crippled for life. As long as they wrestle, I can't feel total control over the sport. I intend to be absolute ruler of wrestling. I'm well on the way to it now. Within two years, wrestling will be totally under my control. You can count on that!

Q: What happens when you get control?

A: My every whim will be law. I cannot be more specific, although I can promise my rule will be one of might and without mercy. Everyone will crawl before me.

Q: Is there anything you'd like to add to this interview?

A: I'd just like to say this is the only interview I will ever do. I've said all I wished and I'm satisfied. No one else deserves to talk to Sheik.

Q: It's been an honor for me to have this interview.

A: I know.

Q: Thank you very much.

A: Thank you for the only forum I'll ever want.

HEREIS W FAN OF TH



My name is Tim Campbell and I don't know how to write poems very well. And I don't know how to put words together and make them sound fancy. But I do know one thing, and that's wrestling.

Wrestling is my sport.

I watch it, study it, and pay attention to every move the wrestlers make. And who knows, maybe someday I'll be a professional wrestler. Maybe one day I'll even be the NWA world champion.

I know wrestling. It's my sport.

And that's why I think I should be wrestling's fan of the month!

TIM CAMPBELL Underwood, Indiana GUEST JUDGE: JOE LeDUC

I like a person who says what he means as simply as possible. Flowery speeches make me grab for my wallet. Tim Campbell is a man after my own heart. He says what he means and means what he says.

I really respect a person who likes something and wants to become part of it. When someone tells me he loves wrestling enough to want to be a wrestler, he has my vote. I've never been a man to sit on the sidelines and watch the parade go by, and I don't like people who do. Tim's not a watcher but a doer.

There's nothing wrong with ambition, either. You have to respect a man who wants to be NWA champ. All the men I respect want it. A lot of young kids come into the sport and are just satisfied with being a professional wrestler. Why bother? A man must want it all for any of it to make any sense. Tim thinks he can get it all. Keep trying, kid!

Of course, a person can't get anywhere without study. Tim doesn't go to the matches to scream, he goes to learn. He sees what works when. He's making

RESTLING'S E MONTH

sure to save himself from making painful mistakes in the future. That's the best way to get ahead. Tim realizes that. And that makes him top man in my book.

Someday, I'd even like to discuss wrestling with Tim. That's really why I chose him, I guess. I read all the entries and said to myself, "Which of these fans would you like to talk with for a couple of hours?" After reading them all, I decided I'd most like to spend some time with Tim. That's why I chose him as "Top Fan of the Month."

Rereading what I've written so far, it seems a bit hard on the people who wrote fine essays or poems, or those content to be simply fans. Look, the fans feed my family, I know that. Many of them cheer for me, making it a lot easier to keep going when the battle is toughest. For what they've done for me, I love everyone who's yelled my name when I entered an arena. I don't mean this explanation as a putdown of them. It's just that the top fan should be someone special. As far as I'm concerned, Tim is someone special.

In the years to come, I'll be looking for Tim's name on wrestling cards. I hope he makes it. He says wrestling is his sport. We have that in common. Wrestling is my sport.

Best of luck, Tim. And best of luck to any young man or woman who wants to become a professional wrestler. It's not easy, but it sure as hell worth the struggle!

HOW YOU CAN BECOME WRESTLING'S FAN OF THE MONTH

If you think you deserve this honor, simply send us a photo of yourself and a 100-word essay telling why you're the best fan. This can take any form from straight narrative to a poem. Photos cannot be returned.

The entries will be judged by our staff and a different wrestling star each month. The grappler will also tell why he voted the way he did, which may be the most revealing article about a wrestler you'll ever read

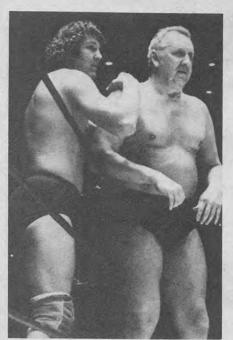
Remember, the contest is called "Wrestling Fan of the Month," not "A Wrestler's Fan of the Month." This contest is intended to honor a sport, not a particular participant.

So while we admire those who work long and selflessly on their favorite wrestler's fan magazine, that's not a qualification in this contest. Fan club workers are rightfully honored elsewhere.

Without the fan, wrestling would wither and die. Because of the fans, wrestling has become the most popular sport in the world. It's about time the fans receive the recognition they deserve.

As soon as possible, send your photos and essays to:

TOP FAN CONTEST c/o INSIDE WRESTLING Box 58 Rockville Centre, N.Y.



The Ortons and THE TRA THAT TWO GEN



PICTURE THIS: Two young boys are playing together. One of them says, "My daddy can beat up your daddy!" The other young lad retorts, "Oh year. I'll bet my daddy can beat up your daddy!" Suddenly the two boys fight over whose father can beat up whom. Sometimes the boys settle the differences between themselves. Sometimes the fathers are called in to settle the differences diplomatically.

Mike Graham forces Bob Orton Sr. to the mat (left) with an armlock. A bloody Mike battles it out with Bob Orton Jr. (right). Their match was a brutal slugfest.

Sometimes the fathers themselves slug it out.

And then there are the times when the fathers have already been battling one another, and their sons are merely imitating them. Then the situation changes. It becomes two fathers arguing. "My son can beat up your son," says one. The other replies, "My boy can beat up yours."

For years, Bob Orton Sr. and Eddie Graham had a vicious series of battles. Sometimes Orton emerged victorious. Sometimes it was Eddie Graham who won. And always, their sons were intensely interested in the outcome. Even then, Mike Graham and Bob Orton Jr. knew there would come a day when they would be the ones who battled.

That day did indeed come.

It is no secret that Eddie Graham and Bob Orton Sr. have been feuding for years. But many people had hoped



they would not pass their battles down to the next generation. For both Mike Gaham and Bob Orton Jr. have been attempting to establish their own careers, apart from those of their fathers. With due consideration, it can be said that Mike Graham had been the more successful of the two young men. He had almost completely broken away from his father's influences. But then along came the

The hatreds of the father have been visited upon the sons. It's now the Grahams against the Ortons, family against family. Their feud threatens to shake wrestling to its very roots!

The Grahams: GICFEUD SPANS ERATIONS





It's 1959 and the red-hot feud between The Grahams and Ortons is in full swing (left) as Bob Sr. locks up Eddie Graham. Bob Jr. makes Eddie pay for those days as he headlocks Eddie (below) trying to force a submission.

recurring problem with the Ortons.

At first, Mike did not want to become involved with the feud. He thought it pointless. He knew, however, he could not stay away forever. He was right.

On the other hand, Bob Orton Jr. welcomed the prospect of renewing the feud, one generation removed. Even when they were kids, Bob had not particularly liked Mike Graham. And once, when they were very young, they had even wrestled each other. Mike won. But those were different days.

So at the urging of his father, Bob Orton Jr. issued a challenge to Mike Graham. Mike was reluctant to accept. He did not want to become embroiled in this feud among the fathers. But family honor was at stake in this situation, so he accepted Orton's challenge.

For the next three weeks, both sets of fathers and sons could be found in training, with the fathers coaching and the sons practicing maneuvers taught to them by their sires. Old hostilities were dragged up from the past. The flame of hatred was passed from father to son. It was not pretty. But the young men accepted the unfortunate legacy.

On the night of the match, an eerie feeling could be sensed in the arena. An inexplicable familiarity was felt by everyone, as if they had all been there



before, though none of them had.

The years seemed to melt away as Bob Jr. and Mike entered the ring. It was as if this was yet another match between Eddie Graham and Bob Orton Sr. And this one was going to be just as brutal as the other ones were.

Both Bob Jr. and Mike were in excellent shape. After the weeks of training with their fathers, they were prepared, somewhat.

(Continued on page 50)

TOP WRESTLE TOP WRESTLON

Do you have a question which concerns all of wrestling? Well, each month in INSIDE WRESTLING, the sport's greatest stars will answer a question sent in by a reader. If you wish to have your question answered by the stars, send it to: ASK THE STARS, INSIDE WRESTLING, Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

The "Question of the Month" is:

"When you first enter the ring and find your-self facing an opponent you hate, what do you think about?"

Submitted by: Rebecca Ann Davison; Rileyville, Virginia



DINO BRAVO

"To me, there is no difference in the way I approach a match between men I respect and men I despise. It is my job to do the best I can. To allow emotions to enter into it is dangerous."



BOB BACKLUND

"The thing to do when faced with a hated enemy is to keep your mind a blank. Think of nothing if you can. I have found that this helps later in the match, when your mind must be alert."



BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"Before every match, I always say a little prayer, imploring the Lord to see me through. When I face a man I particularly despise, I say an extra prayer—for extra protection."



FRITZ VON ERICH

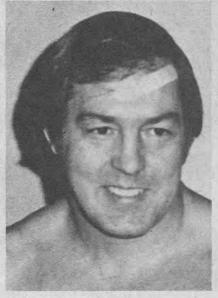
"When I see a man I despise waiting for me, I can only feel sorry for him. After all, in a few short minutes, that man is going to lose a match. I always feel sorry for losers."

RSANSWER OF THE MONTH



PAUL JONES

"When I find myself facing a man I hate, I try to keep calm. I keep going over my plan of attack in my head, making sure I know every detail of what I am going to do."



TIM WOODS

"I try very hard not to think about the upcoming match. I know in a few minutes I will be risking my life against the man in the opposite corner, yet it is important for me not to think about it."



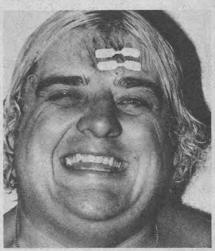
MIL MASCARAS

"If I find myself facing a man I despise, I remember one thing—keep cool. There is nothing worse for a wrestler to do than to let his emotions run away and take control. That is how many matches are lost!"



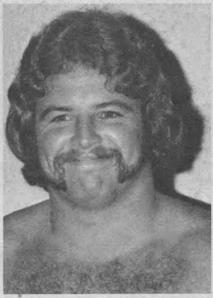
JIM BRUNZELL

"Before a match with a man I hate, I do get concerned over what the final outcome might be. But I do not allow my concern to become evident to anyone else. I may worry, but I won't let anyone know it."



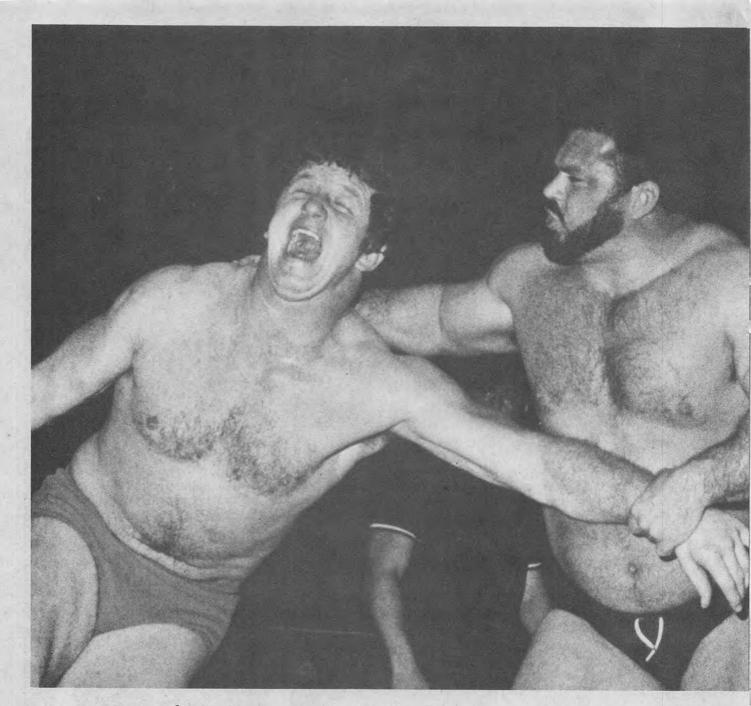
DUSTY RHODES

"I know I shouldn't, but I get super-angry when I see a man I truly hate in the opposite corner. I want to run over there and tear him apart, even before the opening bell. It's all I can do to stay put."



MIKE GRAHAM

"All kinds of thoughts go racing through my mind when I am faced with a man I despise. I think about what I'm going to do and what he may be planning on doing. It can be very frightening."



HOW IVAN PUTS FED S, MT/7 DOWNFALL OF

FTHERE IS one match Terry Funk will never be able to forget, it is the one he had against Ivan Putski. For it was on that night Terry began on his perilously dangerous trip down from glory.

And no one was more surprised by the result than Ivan Putski.

If Terry had not agreed to wrestle Putski, the course of history might have changed. For this one match did more to seriously cripple Funk's career as champion than any other match.

Their match had seemed fairly routine until five minutes before the

time limit ran out. Both men had been battling furiously, but neither seemed able to take complete control. Most spectators felt the match would probably end in a draw.

But the spectators were wrong. With five minutes left to go, Ivan

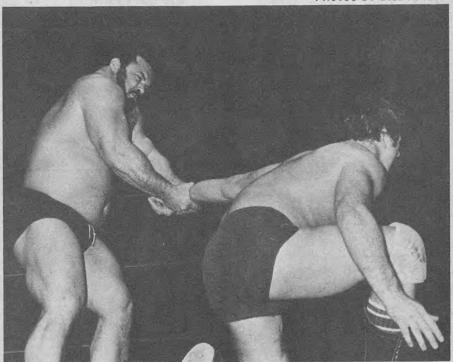
Terry Funk is no longer the NWA champion. Although he successfully defended his title against Ivan Putski, many observers think this is the match in which his kingdom fell



Left: Funk cries out in pain as Putski wristlocks him and prepares to send him flying across the ring. Above: A bearhug nearly finished the champion. Right: Ivan slams Terry onto the hard concrete floor. Below: Terry is powerless as Ivan tortures him with a vicious armtwister.



PHOTOS BY BILL APTER



KI CAUSED THE TERRY FUNK

Putski put on a sudden display of power. How he found the inner strength to launch this assault is unknown. Nevertheless, Terry Funk was unable to stop the onslaught.

was retreating. Something happened. Funk found himself

unable to function as he usually did. Faced with the prospect of losing his title. Terry knew it was time for desperate action. Yet if he stayed in the ring much longer with Putski, As Ivan was attacking, Terry Funk there would be nothing left for Terry to do. Only one option remained. Terry fled back to his dressing room,

thus being disqualified, but still keeping his title.

Putski was furious. He knew he had Terry Funk just where he wanted him. The title was just seconds away. Yet Terry had fled, just in the nick of time. And Terry

(Continued on page 53)

INSIDE WRESTLING'S

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wide Wrestling Federation



Champion: BRUNO SAMMARTINO



1—BARON VON RASCHKE

American Wrestling Association



Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE



1-VERNE GAGNE

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion: HARLEY RACE



1-TERRY FUNK

Most Popular Wrestlers

Tag Teams

Most Hated



1—ANDRE THE GIANT



2-DUSTY RHODES



1—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER



-STRONGBOW &

WHITE WOLF

2—OX BAKER



2-KEN PATERA

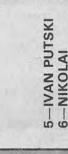










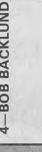






4-BOB BACKLUND

4-PEDRO MORALES







STRONGBOW 9-BOBO BRAZIL 10-TOR KAMATA CHIEF JAY ZBYSZKO VOLKOFF 6-NIKOLAI 8-LARRY

ANGELO MOSCA SUPER



2—GREG GAGNE



3-JACK BRISCO

3-CRUSHER

4-MR. WRESTLING



4-MR. WRESTLING

6—PAUL JONES 7—DORY FUNK JR MASCARAS RHODES DUSTY 8-MIL 5

> 5—RAY STEVENS 6—JIM BRUNZELL 7-LARRY HENNIG

DICK SLATER McDANIEL WAHOO 10-6

10-PETER MAIVIA

DESTROYER



3—THE SHEIK



4-KEN PATERA



5-BARON VON RASCHKE

4—GREG VALENTINE

5-BOB BACKLUND

& RIC FLAIR

THE ANDERSON

BROTHERS

STAN STASIAK 7-ERNIE LADD BRUISER BRODIE 8 9

EXECUTIONERS

6-MIL MASCARAS

7-WAHOO

GORDMAN &

BLACK

GOLIATH

THE

-9

JERRY BRISCO

JACK &

THE VALIANT

8

IVAN PUTSKI

8

McDANIEL

CHIEF JAY

6

SUPERSTAR DUNCUM GRAHAM BOBBY 10

> WOOD BLONDES GREG GAGNE &

9-ТНЕ НОЦУ-BROTHERS

STRONGBOW

JIM BRUNZELL

10

NOSNHOC

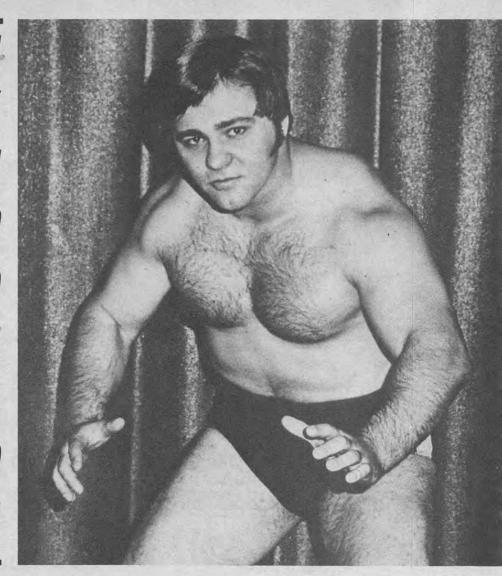
ROCKY

10





ONLY MAN FILL FORGE RETIRE



B RUNO SAMMARTINO stood in the back of the arena, carefully watching the action in the ring. He noted every movement, every tactic, every maneuver. They all looked familiar. He had seen them before. He had devised most of them. The young man he was watching won the match.

The WWWF champion hurried to the young man's dressing room to give a critique of his wrestling. Bruno praised some points and criticized others. Yet there was a touch of sadness in his voice. Deep in his heart, Sammartino knew the young man was almost ready for a championship of his own. And that might mean the death knell of Bruno's career.

Several years ago, a bright teenager came to visit the WWWF champion. The young man explained to Bruno he wanted to become a wrestler. He felt he might be able to do well in the sport. Of course, other young men had come to Sammartino before with the same

notion. But this young man was different. Bruno could sense that. Immediately, the WWWF champion realized the young man standing before him had the makings of a wrestler. He decided to encourage the young man in his pursuits.

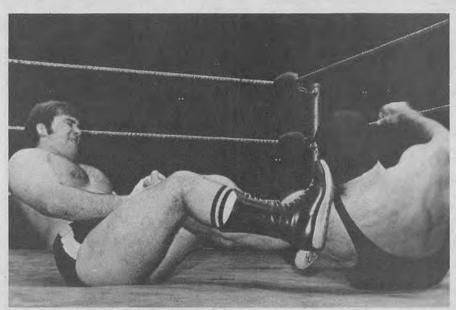
A rigorous program was established for the young man, Larry Zbyszko. For the next few years, Larry wrestled in small arenas across the country. In those hundreds of places, the young man learned his craft. But there was more to his education than that. From his opponents, Zbyszko learned how to defend himself. From Bruno Sammartino, Larry learned wrestling finesse.

It was only a matter of time before Bruno took over the major portion of Larry's training. Sammartino taught Zbyszko the tactics and maneuvers which had made him champion. Larry learned quickly.

Larry proved himself to be more



For many years, Bruno Sammartino has faced and conquered the most savage men in wrestling. Yet there exists a young man who may end Bruno's career without even meeting the champion in battle!



Larry Zbyszko (left opposite page) is Bruno Sammartino's protege. Larry uses an armstretcher (above) in his match against Executioner #2. Bruno gives the youngster some helpful tips (below) Larry shows he can brawl (right) as he prepares to pummel the masked man.





than worthy of the assistance he received from Sammartino. Slowly but surely, Zbyszko became a very fine wrestler. But Bruno knew there would come a day when Larry would become almost as good as Sammartino himself. And on that day, Sammartino would have to retire from wrestling.

That day is almost here.

Never has Larry Zbyszko said he wants to be the man who retires Bruno Sammartino. Larry is more than willing to wait. He knows he has the abilities to become champion, but he prefers to defer to his mentor for as long as Sammartino holds the title.

Bruno is a man who is willing to face reality head on. He can see the writing on the wall. He knows he must soon retire. It is time to let younger men take up the gallant battle he has carried on for so long. He wants to pass it directly to his protege, Larry Zbyszko, but he knows there are other young men also equal to the challenge.

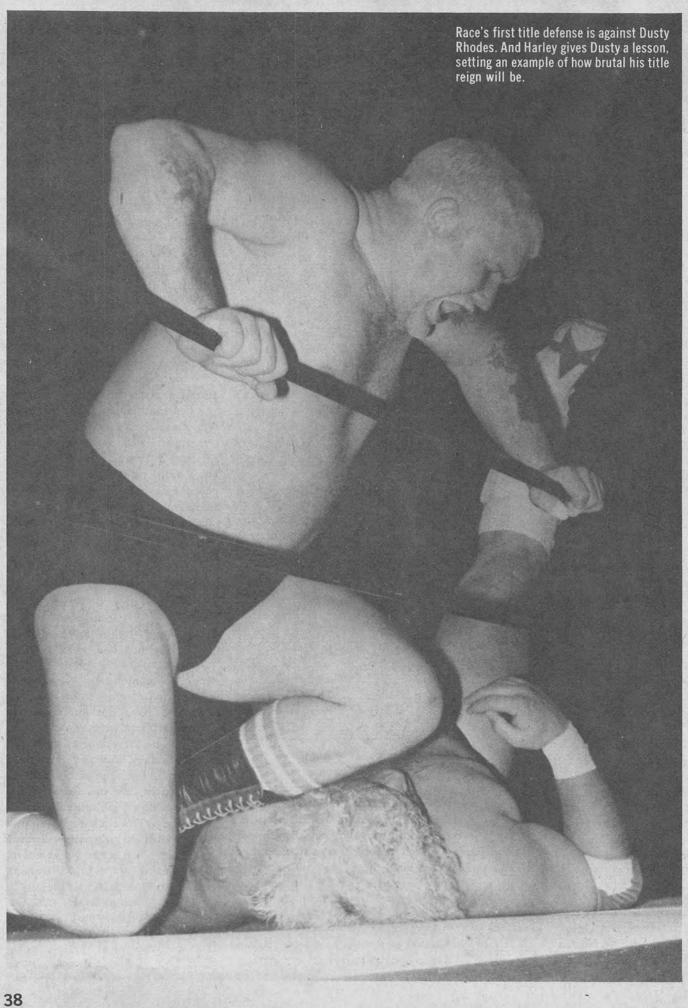
"Within the next year," Bruno quietly predicts to friends, "there will be a new champion in the World Wide Wrestling Federation. That new champion will be either Larry Zbyszko, Tony Garea, or Bob Backlund. I am sure of it. These three young men have what it takes to be champion. They are all young and talented. It will soon be time for me to step aside and let them have their glory."

Privately, Bruno is hoping Zbyszko will be his successor. After all, it will be because of Larry that Bruno will ultimately retire from the sport. It would be only right for Larry to take up Sammartino's task.

There has already been talk that Bruno is planning to retire soon. Sammartino dismisses this as idle gossip. "I have not announced to anyone yet as to when I plan to step aside. I don't know when I will do so myself. I am still following the prospects of the men who I feel are worthy to be my successors. When they are ready, I will retire."

But the WWWF champion knows that one of those prospects is already at the point when he can be champion. Bruno has revised Larry's training schedule to include lessons on how to wrestle in championship matches. These private sessions may be the most important Larry has ever taken. Yet they are the most heartbreaking lessons Sammartino has ever had to

(Continued on page 54)



NOW HARLEY RACE IS WRESTLING'S MOST DANGEROUS MAN

PHOTOS BY DON DELEON

Losing the NWA title hurt the career of Terry Funk. But hurt even more so in the title shuffle is Dusty Rhodes. His plans, hopes, and training methods must now be changed drastically if he wants to dethrone new champion Harley Race

T WAS LIKE discovering your rich aunt left her fortune to a society for the elimination of aerosol cans. Dusty Rhodes read of Harley Race defeating Terry Funk for the NWA title and felt robbed by fate.

"He was ready to fall!" Rhodes screamed to anyone within the sound of his screech. "I knew it, I knew it, I knew it, I knew it. Funk couldn't hold onto his title. If he had lasted one more match, the title could have been mine!

"Everyone said so. 'Funk is finished. He can't hold on much longer. You sure are lucky, Dusty, you're going to wrestle him for the title soon. You can take the belt. The next time you wrestle Funk, you can take him and the belt. Terry has to fall soon.' That's what they said. And they were only one

match off! Damn Race! Damn his luck!"

Dusty had a right to be angry. It was common knowledge in the NWA Funk couldn't hold on to the belt much longer. Of course, those rumors always spring up regularly about any champion. Still, Dusty believed those opinions and dreamed accordingly. He saw his title challenge as the one where it all comes true.

Now, instead of facing a champion most felt on the way out, Dusty would face a new champion, fresh to defend his belt. It meant a complete change in plans. It also meant a tempering of hopes. That would be the hardest part of all.

Still, Dusty is a professional. He does what must be done. So, the next day found Dusty in the gymnasium, practicing new

maneuvers and developing new strategies. Harley Race can't be beaten by the same moves which had proven effective against Terry Funk, so Dusty changed his plans. And that took a lot of work.

As Dusty trained, he learned more and more about Race's champonship victory. Funk didn't fall, he was pushed. Harley was superb throughout the match. He did everything perfectly. It's doubtful anyone could have survived against Race. Now, Dusty found himself against a man who promised to be as good as anyone around. No one could blame him for being less excitied about meeting Race than in meeting Funk.

People couldn't wait to tell Dusty about how remarkable Race had (Continued on page 58)

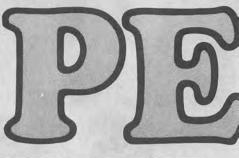
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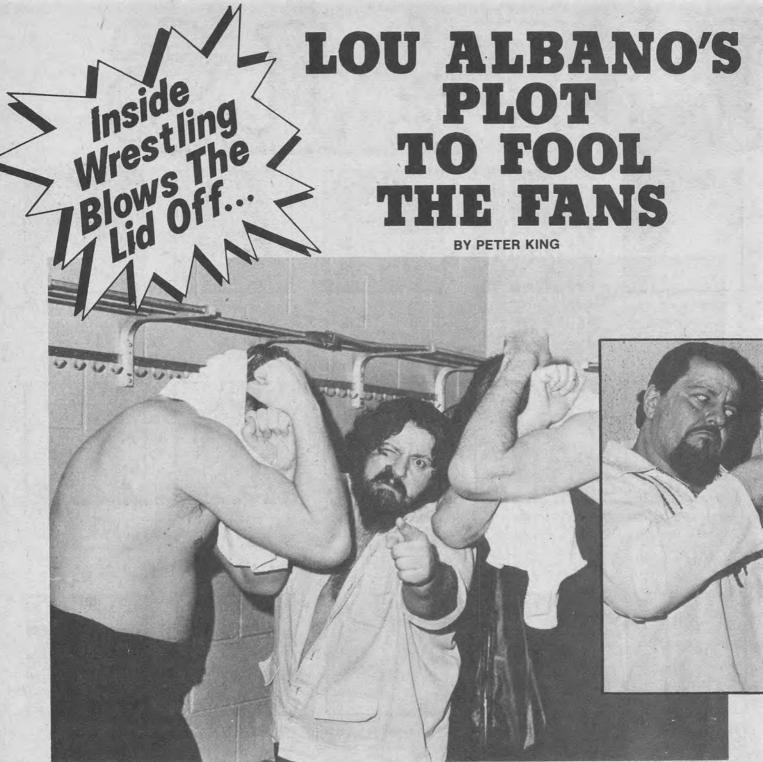
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TIMMY HOLLINGSWORTH (12) Rt 3, Box 388 Waynesville, NC 28786 Enjoys motorcycle racing. Wahoo McDaniel his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.



THE ENVELOPE LAY on the desk. Someone opened it and the contents were poured out. The photograph of Doug Gilbert and Scandor Akbar stood out. It was accompanied by a report from the Viewpure Photo Lab, the most respected lab of its type in the world.

The report was circulated among the editors of this magazine. Some reacted with rueful smiles. Others burned with rage. The lab's findings had declared the photo a phony, a very good phony, but in

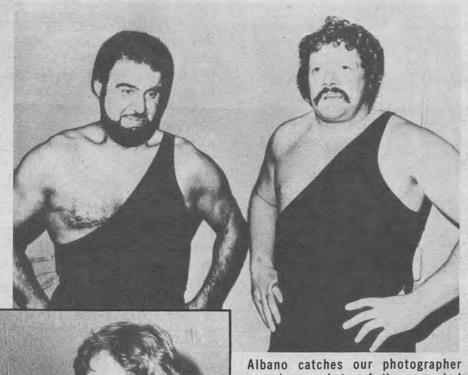
the same class as a three-dollar bill. The heads of Gilbert and Akbar had been transposed upon some other people's bodies. The bodies belonged to The Executioners. Akbar and Gilbert aren't The Executioners.

As you may remember, we published that photo in INSIDE WRESTLING/March 1977. In the accompanying story, we told how the photo was sent to us by Captain Lou Albano, the tag team's manager. He swore these were The Executioners. We warned our

readers foul play can be expected where Albano is involved. Albano proved true to form. The photo was a phony.

It's my job as editor-in-chief to confront Albano with the evidence. I was half hoping the good Captain would start something when the lab's report was thrown in his face. I can handle myself. And I figured I owed him something for the trick he tried to pull.

"The report is a lie!" Albano screamed after I read it to him. "You're doing this to disgrace me!



Albano catches our photographer snapping a photo of the unmasked Executioners (left, opposite page). The doctored photo (above). Editor-in-Chief Peter King confronts an angry Albano with the controversial story.

When Lou Albano sent us photos of The Executioners unmasked, we thought something was wrong. Now we know. Here's the entire story, proving

Albano is one of the most cunning charlatans in wrestling history!



That's what you have in mind, King. You'll print this report and smear my good name. People will no longer believe me. You're trying to destroy me! What about my years of honesty and integrity?"

"I take it those were years before you got into wrestling," I responded. "No one's ever trusted you in this sport. You lied to the readers of INSIDE WRESTLING. Now those readers will know the truth."

"I gave you the truth!" Albano squealed, his voice higher than a soprano with an appendix attack. "I'll sue you if you print those lies! I'll sue you for everything you're worth!"

Sue away, Albano. The facts have to be known. However, don't expect Gilbert to be one of your star witnesses. You don't pay well enough for a man to commit perjury. In fact, it seems you don't pay well at all.

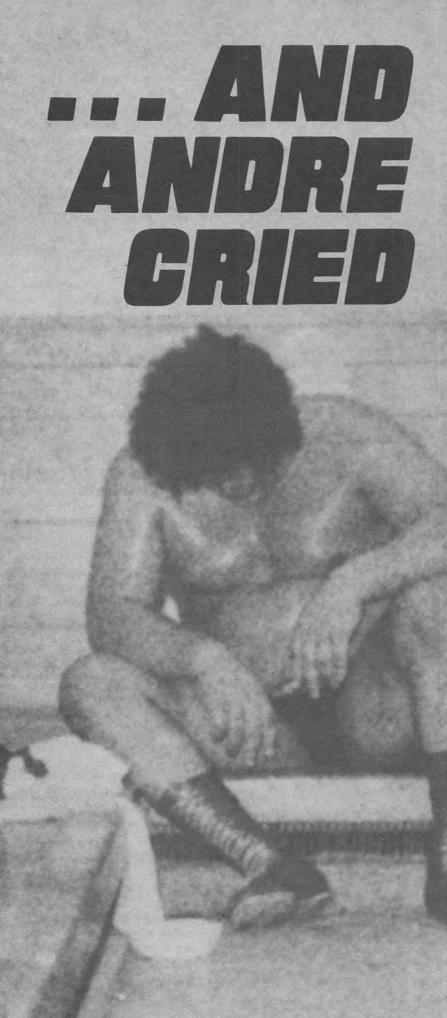
Doug Gilbert is not a very happy man nowadays. Since that article appeared, fans and reporters have plagued him with questions. Promoters hesitate to hire him on the same card when The Executioners are scheduled. Many scientific wrestlers don't believe he's one of The Executioners. To them he's a joke. "Albano's stooge" is the mildest insult he suffers.

Adding injury to insult, it seems Albano doesn't pay his stooges what he promises. Gilbert is one unhappy grappler.

We met at a New York restaurant for lunch. The first thing Gilbert said was, "You'd better be ready to pick up the check. I'm not as wealthy as I thought I'd be."

The whole story came out over the longest lunch I've ever had. Gilbert rambled, contradicted himself, tried desperately not to say too much. He's afraid of Albano. But he's too hurt to keep quiet.

"I was supposed to get a small fortune," Gilbert admitted, then added, "only I didn't figure on how small it would actually be. It was supposed to be given in six installments. The first installment I got was also the last. Once the (Continued on page 64)



A S YOU READ THIS, Andre the Giant is preparing his answer to the many thousands of fans who write to beg him not to quit wrestling. The letters are still pouring into this office and the grappler wants to read every one before making any statement.

Andre is not ashamed to admit the letters—these expressions of love and admiration—caused him to weep. They proved to him the fans loved and needed him. Some of the letters Andre plans to frame. All of them will be kept forever as treasured gifts from friends he'll never know.

"I'm too emotionally charged," Andre admits, "to respond immediately. I never expected the amount of mail, or the depth of appreciation the fans feel for me. I'm overwhelmed, too touched to put my thoughts into words. Whatever my decision about my career, I want the fans to know I love them all dearly, more than I can ever express."

Andre warns, however, he is still undecided about whether or not to give up wrestling for an acting career. He admits the fans have already had a profound effect on his thinking, but the final decision must still be made. He asked us to print this short article before rendering his decision to make sure the fans know how much he appreciates their support.

It is not too late to add your voice and write another letter to Andre. He obviously needs more convincing to remain in wrestling. The only ones who can do that are the fans. The man feels, rightly or wrongly, all others in wrestling have deserted him.

No matter what his final decision, it will be printed in full in INSIDE WRESTLING.

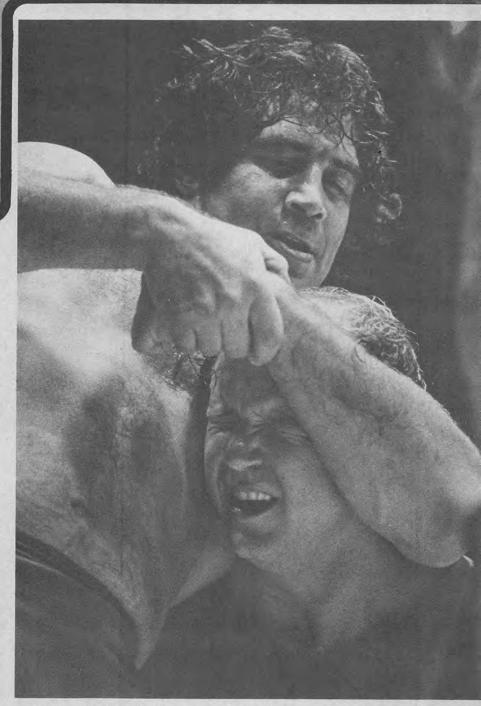
INSIDE WPESTLING

JACK BRISCO

capsule Profile



E IS CONSIDERED one of the most formidable wrestlers in the NWA, even though he no longer holds that association's title . . . Can take on opponents with any style and still manage to come out victorious ("I learned long ago that you have to be flexible if you want to win.") ... His agile and quick maneuvers tend to confuse most opponents ... He has considerable strength, but he relies more on his intelligence to win matches ("It is easier for me to out-think a man than try to waste time overpowering him.") . . . His best maneuver is the figure-four leglock . . . Enjoyed a long and honorable reign as champion of the

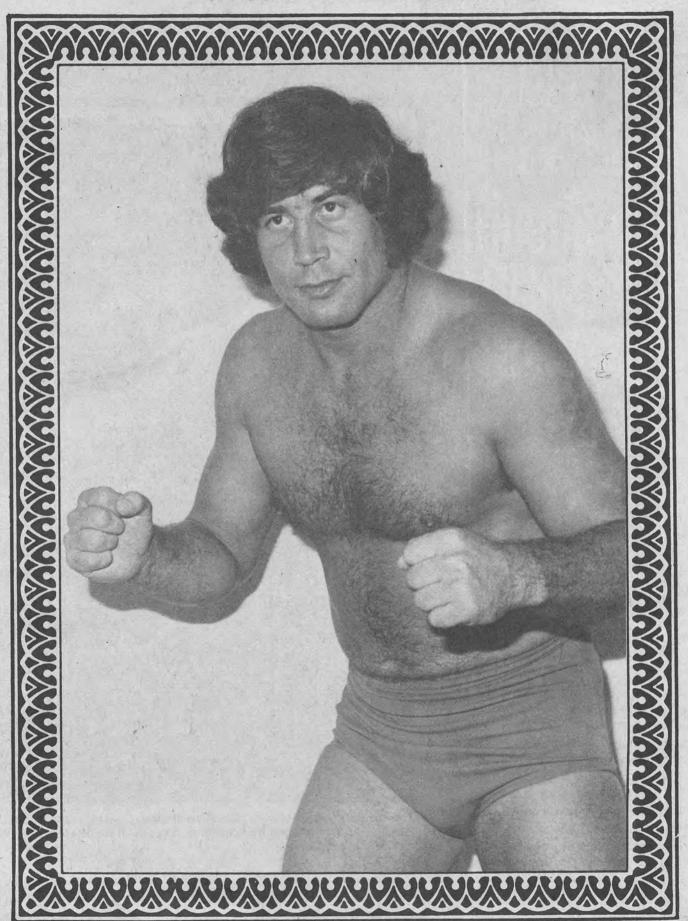


In one of their most classic battles, Jack Brisco applies a crushing headlock to arch rival Dory Funk Jr. Jack, a former NWA champion, hopes to lift the title from the waist of Harley Race in the near future.

NWA... In recent times, has been under pressure to regain the belt ("A lot of people think I should be champion again. And I am willing to take the belt away from Terry

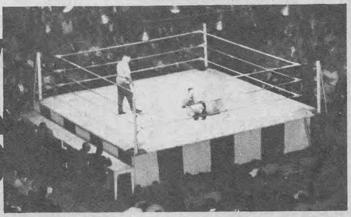
Funk!") . . . He would rather be crippled in a battle than flee from dangerous action . . . Jack Brisco is one of the most dignified and honorable men wrestling today.

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



JACK BRISCO

SINCERELY VALUES



LOW MAN

I just finished reading your feature, "First Photos of The Executioners Unmasked" (March 1977). All I can say is that is a lot of bull. I have seen The Executioners wrestle. They are around 6-8 and 6-9. I have seen Doug Gilbert and Scandor Akbar wrestle before. Doug Gilbert is around 6-3. Scandor Akbar is around 6-1. So tell me, how can they be The Executioners? It is clear the photo Lou Albano sent you is a phony!

Lou Albano, you are the lowest man in professional wrestling! JERRY CAPPIELLO Orangeburg, N.Y.



IT IS NOT TRUE!

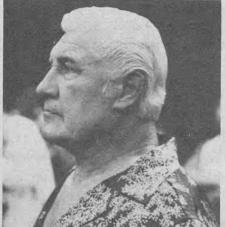
Who is Albano kidding? I've just finished reading your exclusive story about The Executioners which says Skandor Akbar and Doug Gilbert are that infamous duo.

Quite simply, a lot of fans and myself think it is just not true!

DONALD SEBERA Hopewell, Va.



It is hard to believe that The Executioners (above) are Scandor Akbar and Doug Gilbert. Lou Albano (left) and Fred Blassie (below) are praised by columnist Dan Shocket.



REPORTER WITH GUTS

Bravo! Let me congratulate Mr. Dan Shocket for his honesty and frankness in "Bodyslams and Pinfalls" (March 1977). Dan is the only wrestling reporter who has the guts to speak the truth.

Wrestling managers are geniuses and they deserve to be praised, not mistreated. If every wrestler had a manager like Captain Lou Albano and Fred Blassie, wrestling would be even greater than it is now. Hail to these geniuses of the mat world and the men they manage.

MICHAEL DANIELS Yonkers, N.Y.

(Continued on page 48)

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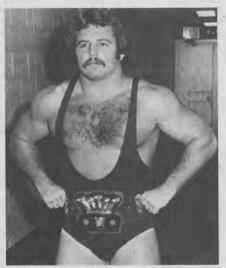
(Continued from Page 47)

BRUNO VS. BRUNO

I must congratulate you on your excellent story, "Bruno Sammartino (1963) vs. Bruno Sammartino (1977): Who Would Win?" (March 1977). It was a well-written, wellresearched piece.

I agree wholeheartedly-the Bruno Sammartino wrestling today is much better than the one who wrestled 14 years ago. He has to be. The calibre of opponents has increased over the years. But so has Bruno's ability. No matter what, if this dream match could take place, it would be a rough one for both men.

> JESSE PONNER Wilkes-Barre, Pa.



Mike Graham is a great young wrestler who is also a top prospect to unseat new NWA champion Harley Race.

GREAT GRAHAM

Mike Graham is my favorite wrestler, and your "Capsule Profile" (March 1977) was just great. I have been wanting to see an in-depth feature on this terrific young man for a long time. Your story fit the bill perfectly.

In my opinion it is only a matter of time before Mike Graham becomes champion of the NWA. He has the necessary talents and that special championship quality. And when his day comes, he will become the greatest champion in



One fan feels pity for Nick Bockwinkle for signing his life away to manager Bobby Heenan. Nick no longer has any say in his career dealings—Heenan makes all the decisions for him.

the history of that association.

Mark my words. Soon everyone will be singing the praises of Mike Graham!

LOUISE ZELLER Orlando, Fla.

A LITTLE PITY?

Your article, "Has Nick Bockwinkle Signed His Life Away to Bobby Heenan?" (March 1977), has made me do some rethinking regarding the AWA champion. I believe I really feel a little pity for the man.

No man should be enslaved by another man. History has proven this time and again. Yet this is exactly what Bobby Heenan did to the AWA champion. And I think it is disgusting. No manager should be able to so completely control a wrestler. It isn't right. It isn't fair.

The wrestling commissions should step in and void that contract. Something must be done!

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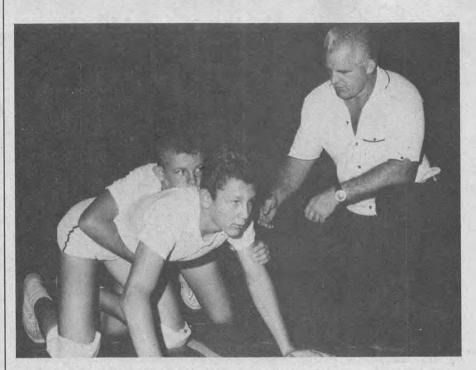
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The Ortons and The Grahams

(Continued from Page 29)



Vintage photos from exclusive files show Eddie Graham coaching son Mike (above), who is on top during a "ride" in an amateur exhibition. Mike's opponent—Bob Orton Jr.! Bob Sr. gives his son some advice (below) as Bob Jr. tries a full nelson on a training partner.



A vital mistake had been made by the Ortons. They had calculated their strategy around the way Eddie Graham had wrestled. They did not know that Mike would choose a

completely different style than his father. Indeed, Mike had deliberately tried to avoid any similarities in style with his father. It was all part of his attempt to establish his own identity.



Mike headlocks Bob Orton St. The elder Orton and his son have nothing but deep hatred for Mike and Eddie Graham.

On the other hand, Bob Jr. wrestled in a style similar to Bob Sr. Both Mike and Eddie realized this, and had planned accordingly.

It was only a matter of time before Mike conquered Bob Jr.

As soon as Mike's hand was raised in victory, Eddie jumped up and into the ring to congratulate his son. Bob Orton Sr. was, to say the least, disappointed over his son's loss. He knew the defeat was partially his fault. He should have realized the Grahams would be unpredictable. It had happened to him when he wrestled Eddie. Of course, it would happen to his son against Graham's son.

Bob Orton Jr. was not satisfied with the results. He realized he had made one mistake. He wanted to correct it. He immediately issued another challenge to Mike Graham. Mike did not want to accept. He had proven his point.

Mike told Bob Jr. he would consider a return match, but he had to think about it for a while.

If Mike does accept a return match, he knows he will be perpetuating the feud. He wants it to stop here and now. But the family's honor is at stake. And honor can make a feud last forever.



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BEHIND THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from Page 8)

what makes your colleague, Dan Shocket, so great."

At that point, I was getting so sick, that I just picked up my coat and headed for the door.

"Get smart, Gordon!" yelled Patera. "Open your eyes a little and you'll see just who is good and who is bad."

Ernie Ladd's attitude was similar to that of Patera. Quite simply, it stunk! I have films of a great deal of wrestlers, and when I run them back in slow motion, you can see every foul and dirty tactic used in the match. Sure, even the scientific wrestlers break the rules from time to time. But not like Patera, Ladd, and the rest of their kind.

In a recent match between Dino Bravo and and Blackjack Mulligan, I counted the number of dirty tactics used by each man by watching the films of the match. Mulligan, who committed the first foul of the match, repeated his rulebreaking throughout the contest. I quit counting as 431 Bravo broke the rules three times. I think that speaks for itself.

After taking a poll of fans during Mil Mascaras' recent appearance in Madison Square Garden (over 22,000 fans were in attendance), I came up with a rather amazing statistic. Ninety-seven percent said they would like to see Mascaras apper there more often. Two percent said they wouldn't, and another one percent said it didn't matter. I also polled the fans as to how they felt about Stan Hansen. Eighty-three percent said they wouldlove to see him take a fierce battering, nine percent said they think he's great, while another eight percent claimed it made no difference to them what happened to Hansen.

Speaking of polls and votes, the tabulation is in: I will be refereeing wrestling matches around the country from time to time. Out of more than 8,000 fans who responded, 77 percent said they think I should referee. Many of the

fans who voted that I shouldn't referee, did so because they were concerned for my safety.

"There are too many rulebreakers who are out to get you," wrote Ray Zammit of Los Angeles. "You're a great reporter, and you jeopardize your health enough as it is. us fans appreciate all you are doing, and want you to stay healthy. Please don't referee."

To all of you who feel that way, thanks a million. But I love being a wrestling reporter, and I'm willing to take chances to get a good story. And that includes being a referee. Don't worry—I'll be careful.

Harley Race, the recentlycrowned NWA champion, usually chews several sticks of gum before a match. Psychologists say it releases nervous energy to chew gum. I've interviewed Race several times, and know he always chews the same kind of gum. I recently purchased the same kind of gum, along with onion flavored gum from a novelty store. I placed the onion gum in the wrappers of the gum Harley chews, then casually left it in his shirt pocket. You should have seen his face light up as he stuffed the entire pack into his mouth at once. They almost had to take me to a hospital from an acute laughing

Many fans are jumping on the "Randy's Raider's" bandwagon, a group started by Connecticut restaurant owner Ching Yeh. If you have any evidence—photos or otherwise—that can incriminate any rulebreaking wrestler, let me know about it. Together, we can make things quite hot for him. I'll hang every rulebreaker slowly but suely. I want to make them suffer.

Last week, I was in Hawaii with Dean Ho, who like most Hawaiians, is a first-rate surfer. he told me to send regards to all his fans, and expressed the opinion that we're winning the war against rulebreakers of this sport. Don't I know it!

Better yet, the rulebreakers know it, and they're all running scared.□

THE DOWNFALL OF TERRY FUNK

(Continued from Page 33) was still champion.

Little did Ivan know that he had just started a chain of events which would lead directly to the final disgrace and downfall of the NWA champion.

Later, in his dressing room, Terry talked with a select group of wrestling reporters. This time, Funk was not ranting and raving. This time, Terry was calmly repentant. "Something is terribly wrong," Funk confessed. "I did as well as I possibly could tonight. Yet I almost lost my belt. I just couldn't do it. I just couldn't win.

"There comes a time in every man's life when he realizes that his best is just not good enough any more. I should have seen this coming. I am tired, very tired. Not just physically, but spiritually as well. My heart just isn't in being NWA champion any more. I am just so terribly tired. I need to rethink my goals and aspirations. I need to know just where I am going and why. Any questions?"

To say the least, the reporters were all shocked at Terry's short speech. They had never heard the headstrong wrestler speak so honestly. All the reporters were speechless. They could think of nothing to ask Funk. Terry had said more than he should have said.

The next two weeks were the most frantic Terry ever spent. He was in training from dawn till dust, hoping to retrieve that extra something which had made him champion once. But the harder he tried, the worse it became. Funk was grasping at anything he could, but it was lost.

Funk tried to cancel his scheduled championship matches, telling the NWA he was sick. This was not too far from the truth—he was in fact suffering from exhaustion. It would not be easy to escape.

During this entire time, Ivan Putski kept hearing reports of Funk's downfall. These stories neither gladdened him or upset him. "I welcome news Funk is suffering after wrestling me," Ivan said, "but I



Ivan keeps working on Terry's arm as the champion tries to pull away from the Polish strongman's grip (above). Putski thinks he owns the belt (right), but it is taken from him by officials and returned to Terry (below).



also pity him. He will never be the same again. He will never be as good as he once was. His life is over as a champion. It is only a matter of time. I wish I was set to wrestle him next week. Then I know I would become champion of the NWA. The next man to wrestle Terry Funk will



be lucky indeed."

The next man to wrestle Terry Funk was a big, bruising former NWA champion by the name of Harley Race. The match occurred on a cold, cold Sunday night, February 6, 1977.

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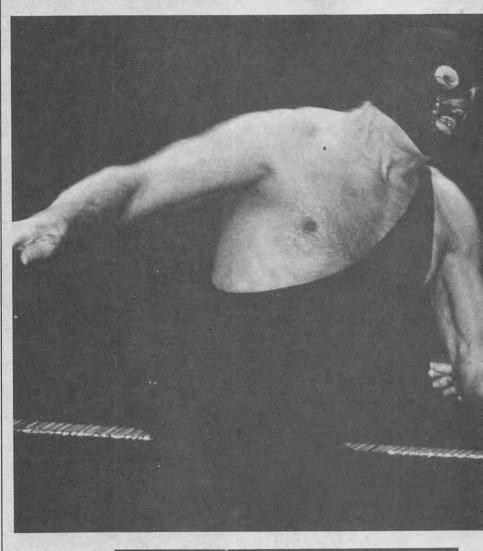
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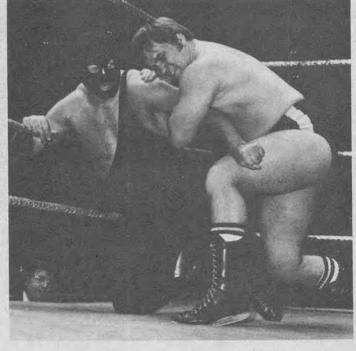
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THE MAN WHO COULD FORCE

(Continued from Page 37)



Young Zbyszko whips Executioner #2 across the ring (above) in a wild battle. The masked rulebreaker reaches for the safety of the ropes (right) as Larry's armlock becomes too much for him.



UNO TO RETIRE



teach. For at the end of this set of sessions, Bruno's work will be done. He can pack up his career and quietly go home.

Don't start speaking of Bruno Sammartino in the past tense yet. He is not washed up. There are still challenges he alone must face. There is still work to be done in the WWWF before he can retire. Sammartino is not going to step aside until the time is right.

Yet Bruno knows that fateful day is coming. He knows he is now in his last years as a professional wrestling champion. And though he is saddened because he will soon step aside, he is also happy to enter into a new phase of his life. He will soon have new work to do. And he can feel assured, because he has helped make the WWWF a little bit better.

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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 10)



Big Dusty is a big favorite of fans all over the world. Wherever Dusty appears, the promoter can be certain that the arena will be overflowing with his ardent supporters.

work out, and the bicentennial year went instead to that flunky, Terry Funk. It isn't fair. It isn't right. But what can you do about it? Nothing! So I've done nothing. And that is the way things stay.

'I am thwarted in all my efforts to gain immortality. My only salvation is the throng of fans who flock around me everywhere I wrestle. They support me and my efforts. That is what makes it all worthwhile. If it weren't for the fans, I wouldn't stay in this sport. At least not after the moral defeats I've suffered.

"There was a time when I didn't give a damn about the fans. I just did what I wanted and that was that. But those days are long gone. Those days were trying on me, and I think they almost forced me to get out of wrestling. In fact, I decided I had to do one of two things: Change my ways or leave. The toll was too great for me to handle any more.

'There was a young man whose life I ruined. He will never walk again. It's all my fault. There is nothing which can be done to change that. So I changed. Yes, even in my rulebreaking days, I did have some compassion. Even in my rulebreaking days I cared. I felt quilty for what I had done to him.

He'll never walk again. He'll never be able to enjoy life. He is, understandably, bitter towards me, towards everyone. He has never forgiven me, and I can't say I blame him. Would you forgive the man who ruined your life?

"But I have changed. The fans love me. And now I am the greatest. There is nothing which can change that. Let them have their flunky champ. I am the real champion-the people's champion! It is one thing to have the official title, which doesn't mean a hell of a lot anyway. It is another thing to be the most popular wrestler in the world, and have the love of every decent fan.

'Make no mistake about it. I am the greatest. Nothing can change that!'

At this point, I turned off the tape recorder. We had been pulled off the road by a state trooper. It seems that while Dusty had been talking, he had been pressing down on the accelerator-hard! I believe the policeman clocked us going 95 miles per hour.

After the state trooper handed Rhodes the speeding ticket, I took over the wheel of the car. Driving at 55 miles per hour, we had a safeand quiet-trip down to Miami. I wasn't talking, and Dusty had fallen asleep.

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HARLEY RACE

(Continued from Page 39)

become, naturally making Dusty more depressed. Reports were filled with tales of Harley's magnificent display of wrestling skills. When Dusty finally got to see a film of the match, it didn't do much to make him feel better. "That bum was really good" was all Dusty said. But he said it over and over again.

Naturally, there was a great deal of speculation about the future in the NWA. This caused more than realize people wondered how, not if, he would fall. They were coming to watch Race. For once in his life, Dusty learned how it felt to be an incidental participant. It enraged the proud grappler.

From disappointment to rage, Dusty now grew determined to do his best. They might be coming to inspect Race, but they'd be leaving singing Dusty's praises.

There was more than the usual amount of wrestlers in the crowd



the usual interest in Dusty's challenge. Many athletes can be extraordinary for one important match and then fall into a mediocre lull. Could Race keep up his furious style or would he lapse into a less savage regularity? The answers would be supplied when he came up against Rhodes.

No wrestler likes to be a guinea pig, least of all Dusty. It hurt him to on the night of the match. They were going to see their first glimpse of Race as current NWA champion. Could the reports be true? If they were, would Race dominate the association for years? The night would provide a clue if not the answer.

Dusty entered the arena first to overwhelming applause. His face was set in cool determination. This

Left, opposite page: Race sits on the canvas, bloody but still champion. Above: Dusty lifts Race off his perch and prepares to slam him to the mat. Dusty is obsessed with title dreams and vows to take Race's belt.

would be his night to howl, even if no one else knew it. There was no doubt in the athlete's mind he would leave with the title belt.

Then, Race entered. The NWA belt encircled his waist. The crowd greeted him with boos. Race laughed. There lived no more confident man on earth

The bell sounded and the match began. These men were wary of each other from years of combat. Yet, this was for a new prize. Would anything be changed? Would anything be different? As the battlers circled, they stared into each other's eyes. All they saw was

(Continued on page 60)

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ARIFY RACE

(Continued from Page 59)



Harley traps Dusty in the ropes and pulls his hair (above). A sloppily executed headlock by the new champion (below) has Dusty countering as he is about to toss Harley into the ropes.



the reflection of their own ambition.

Then they locked in the middle of the ring. This started a tempestuous confrontation never to be forgotten. These were professionals. Every movement was controlled, no gesture wasted. The advantage changed with

lightning speed. As the minutes ticked away, neither man could claim control.

Then, with shocking swiftness, Race tore into his foe. Dusty was momentarily caught off guard, one moment too many. Blood spurted from Dusty's forehead. From a brilliant scientific match, the battle turned to a brawl.

Soon, Race was also bleeding freely. The two foes battered away at each other. The referee continually warned them to stop. Inevitably, the official was forced to disqualify both men. Rhodes had failed to take Race's title. In his first title defense, Harley Race retained his championship.

There were no smiles on the wrestlers' faces as they left the arena. The match had been a lesson no one wanted to learn. Dusty was superb throughout the battle, perfectly executing scientific and roughhouse maneuvers. Though he wouldn't admit it, each wrestler knew he couldn't be expected to do better.

Still, Race had survived Rhodes' assault. If a man can do that, chances of his losing the title are slim indeed. Every grappler yearning for the champinship felt a hole in the pit of his belly. Defeating Race would be the hardest thing they'd ever do. That's what the match told them.

It was a silent group of grapplers. All the noise came from Race's dressing room. The new king was holding court while the doctor stitched up his cuts.

"First of many," Harley bragged, "first of many. The last time I owned this belt, I didn't hold it long. It will be different this time. I'll retire with the belt still mine, probably by the turn of the century. Welcome to the era of Harley Race. Sit back, relax, it's going to last a long, long

If Race continues to excel as he did against Dusty Rhodes, you can believe him.

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S/R Annual 2



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S/R Annual 4



Picture Book/Win 75



Picture Book/Spr 76



Picture Book/Sum 76



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Picture Book/Fall 76 Best of Wres/Win 76 Picture Book/Win 76



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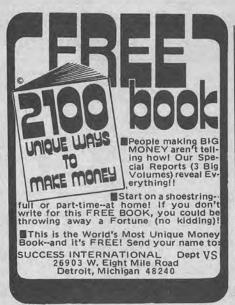
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BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page-12)



Captain Lou Albano (above) and Nick Bockwinkle (below) are always having trouble with corrupt referees.



As I said in the beginning of this column, the only solution to this problem is the mass firing of referees. They should all be dismissed immediately. The sooner the better. Perhaps a few can be hired back after an extensive examination of their records, but that's doubtful. The ooze of corruption has covered the sport

for too long to think it hasn't stuck to most referees. Those not on the take at least know about it and have done nothing. They are equally guilty.

To replace these flunkies, wrestlers should be asked to recommend men of distinction. And by wrestlers, I don't mean those who have benefited too long from this situation. The time has come for those whose careers have been thwarted to get a fair chance. A panel of these men would be set up to select the referees. Their decision should be final

I would recommend Lou Albano, Baron Von Raschke, Blackjack Mulligan, Bobby Duncum, Ric Flair, and Mr. Fuji to sit on this panel. These are men who've had championships stolen from them time and time again. They would know what to look for in a referee because they have suffered. Few athletes in any sport have been as frustrated as these men. No wonder so many superb athletes have foresaken their principles to pursue careers as "popular" wrestlers. It's the only way to win. The men mentioned above have never changed, never compromised. They would be perfect judges for a referee's fitness.

Naturally, I don't have much hope of this ever happening. The men who have corrupted the sport for so long are too powerful to be overthrown. What's worse, they have the support and admiration of the fans. The commissioners will do anything to please the fans, so they make sure the popular wrestlers get all the breaks. Fairness coming to wrestlers is about as likely as eternal peace coming to earth. It just ain't in the cards.

This won't stop the best men in the sport from giving their all. Athletes like Greg Valentine, the Hollywood Blonds, John Tolos, Sheik, and Ox Baker don't know the meaning of surrender. They're responsible for making wrestling the best sport in the world.

Despite corrupt referees, wrestling survives. Without corrupt referees, the sport would flourish.

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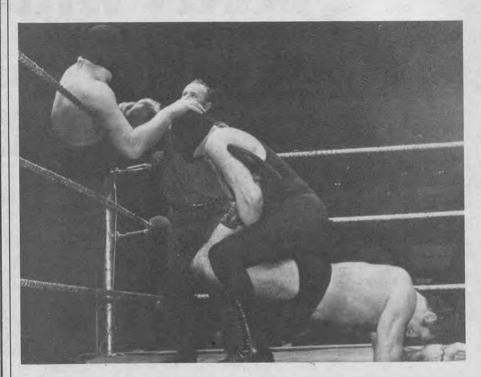
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ALBANO'S PLOT

(Continued from Page 43)



These are the original Executioners working over Dom DeNucci. Who are the men behind the masks choking Billy White Wolf (below). Doug Gilbert is too agile to be an Executioner (right).



photo was published, it seems Albano forgot my address. For all the flack I've taken, for all the abuse and humiliation, there's been almost no money. I don't know if Akbar got any more than I did. I don't care about Akbar. All I care about is myself."

However, I had to get him to admit the photo was faked. He had to say he'd never been an Executioner. The best way to handle this is a straight question: "Are you an Executioner?"



"Don't be ridiculous. All I did was let Albano take a picture of my face. I've never been an Executioner."

At this point, I turned off the tape recorder. I'd put it on the table at the beginning of the meal. Gilbert can never say I taped the confession without his knowledge.

These are the facts. What will happen to Gilbert is anybody's guess. Albano is a powerful man. Well, you take your chances. Doug tried to deceive the wrestling public and is now up to his neck in



Before they were stripped of their titles, the masked men pose with Albano (above). The mask is almost off # 2. Do you know who this man is?



trouble. Hopefully, it'll be a lesson to other wrestlers who think they can pull the wool over the fans' eyes.

Albano continues to threaten a lawsuit if this article sees the light of day. As you read it, so does Lou Albano. He knows the address of INSIDE WRESTLING, and so does his lawyer. But, as I said before, Albano doesn't scare me.

The fans always have a right to know. That's what this magazine had dedicated itself to accomplish. And the threats of a Lou Albano will never, never stop us.

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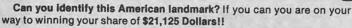
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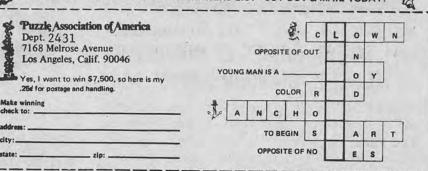
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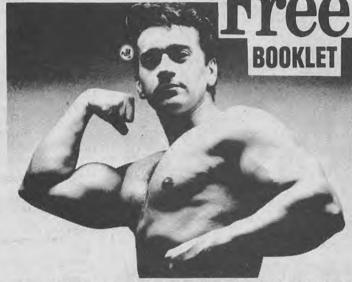
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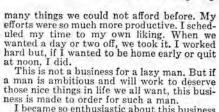
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my method of DYNAMIC-TENSION starts giving you results you can feel and your friends will notice. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed. Lose "pot belly." Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body - or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition - or how old or young you are - the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a REAL man! Believe me, I know - because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach . . . shy of girls ... afraid of healthy competition.

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